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FBIS-LAT-94-233 CONTENTS *5 December 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS:

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Peru's Yoshiyama Opens Asia-Pacific Legislative Forum *[EXPRESO 22 Nov]* 1

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Latin American Presidents Cited on Miami Summit *[EL FINANCIERO 2 Dec]* 2
Leaders' Interest in Summit of Americas Topics Noted *[CANA]* 3
UNHCR for Central America Criticizes Proposition 187 *[Hamburg DPA]* 4
Central American Ministers Modify Property Rights Accords *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 1 Dec]* 4
Caricom Expects Increase in Sugar Exports to EU *[CANA]* 4
FACh Commander Opens Latin American Space Agency Meeting *[EL MERCURIO 29 Nov]* 5

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro's Meetings, Statements in Mexico Detailed 6
  Meets With Mexico's New President *[Havana Radio]* 6
  Meets Press at Embassy 2 Dec *[Havana TV]* 6
  Denies Asking Countries To Broach Blockade *[PRENSA LATINA]* 7
  Meets Mexican Businessmen *[PRENSA LATINA]* 7
  Comments on Miami Summit, Proposition 187 *[PRENSA LATINA]* 8
  Returns to Havana From Mexico *[PRENSA LATINA]* 9
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Migration, Summit *[Havana Radio]* 9
Commentary on Miami Summit 'Snub,' Debate on Drug War *[Havana Radio]* 9
Havana Protests Exclusion From Miami Customs Summit *[Havana Radio* 10
Daniel Ortega on 'Bed Rest' in Havana Hospital *[Havana Radio]* 10
  Does Not Require Surgery *[PRENSA LATINA]* 10
North Korean General Visits Revolution Museum *[Havana TV]* 10
DPRK Marshal Sends Congratulations to Raul Castro *[Havana Radio]* 11
Military Excercises Slated for National Defense Day *[PRENSA LATINA]* 11
  Day Observed Nationwide *[Havana TV]* 11
  Lazo Extols Day's Importance *[Havana TV]* 12
  Rosales Salutes Military *[Havana Radio]* 12
Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities *[Havana Radio, etc.]* 12
Results of Farmers' Markets Discussed *[Havana TV]* 13
Report Examines Economic 'Reorganization' *[PRENSA LATINA]* 14
Roundup of Economic Developments *[Havana Radio, etc.]* 16

Barbados

New Ambassador to U.S. Appointed *[CANA]* 17

Cayman Islands

Cuban Refugees March; Children Plead for Visas *[CANA]* 17

Haiti

- Aristide Urges Repression Victims To Lodge Complaints *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
- Military Reassignments, Court Appointments Reported *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
  - Background on Supreme Court President *[CANA]* 19
- Officers on New Police Force Arrive From Guantanamo *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19
- Aristide Forms Economic Growth Commission *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19

MEXICO

- Congress Asks Zedillo To Oppose Proposition 187 at Summit *[UNOMASUNO 1 Dec]* 20
- Activities of Foreign Leaders in Mexico Detailed 20
  - Views of Bolivian President *[Madrid EFE]* 20
  - Chile's Frei Meets Castro *[Santiago TV]* 21
  - Menem Talks With Gore, Zedillo *[TELAM]* 21
  - Castro 'Patient' in Listening to Menem *[CLARIN 2 Dec]* 22
  - Spain's Gonzalez: Cuban Blockade Unacceptable *[LA JORNADA 2 Dec]* 22
- Zedillo Advocates Stronger Ties With Nations *[Mexico City TV]* 23
  - Foreign Secretary Outlines Priorities *[Mexico City Radio]* 23
- Domestic Reactions to Zedillo's Inauguration *[LA JORNADA 2 Dec]* 24
- Coparmex Hails Zedillo's Inaugural Speech *[EL FINANCIERO 2 Dec]* 25
- Parties State Positions Toward Zedillo Administration *[Mexico City TV]* 25
- Zedillo Addresses PRD, Supports Dialogue in Chiapas *[REFORMA 1 Dec]* 25
- Zedillo Comments on Role of Armed Forces *[NOTIMEX]* 26
- PRD Leaders Deny Party's Involvement in Recent Clashes *[Mexico City Radio]* 26
- Government Secretariat Issues Bulletin on Recent Clashes *[Mexico City TV]* 27
- Chiapas Indians Protest Zedillo's Inauguration *[LA JORNADA 2 Dec]* 27
- Incoming Chiapas Governor Urged To Continue Peace Process *[UNOMASUNO 1 Dec]* 28
- Chiapas Governor-Elect Moves To End Crisis *[NOTIMEX]* 28
- Chiapan Societal Discontent Examined *[LA JORNADA 28 Oct]* 29
- PRI Names New President, Secretary General *[NOTIMEX]* 31
- Major Points of Zedillo's Economic Program Detailed *[EL FINANCIERO 30 Nov]* 31
- Secofi Outlines Gains From NAFTA in First 8 Months *[LA JORNADA 30 Nov]* 33
- Zedillo Informs Business Representatives of Economic Plans *[Mexico City TV]* 34

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

- Prime Minister Interviewed on Miami Summit *[Mexico City TV]* 35

El Salvador

- President on Migrant Accord, Miami Summit *[San Salvador Radio]* 35

Nicaragua

- Ortega Receiving Medical Care in Cuba *[BARRICADA 2 Dec]* 39
- Major General Cuadra on Constitutional Amendments *[Managua TV]* 40
- Increase in Registration of FSLN Members *[BARRICADA 6 Nov]* 40

Panama

- President Returns; Comments on Summit, Talks in Mexico *[Panama City TV]* 40
- Perez Balladares Says U.S. To Support Panama's Entry Into GATT *[Panama City TV]* 41
- Executive Promulgates Legislative Act No. 1 on Canal *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 2 Dec]* 41
  - Administrator on Importance of Title *[ACAN]* 41
- Spain Agrees To Accept 100 Cuban Rafters in Panama *[LA PRENSA 4 Dec]* 42

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem To Urge Cuban Democratization at Summit *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 43
Further on Military Cooperation With Mexico *[CLARIN 1 Dec]* 43
Menem Reacts to Report on Military in Mexico *[TELAM]* 43
Pampa Plane Withdrawn From U.S. Bidding *[CLARIN 2 Dec]* 44
    Menem Comments *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 44
Security Forces To Join Efforts on AMIA Case *[TELAM]* 44

Bolivia

'Plan of Action' To Be Proposed at Miami Summit *[LOS TIEMPOS 26 Nov]* 45
FELCN Chief 'Pessimistic' About Drug Fight *[HOY 27 Nov]* 45

Brazil

Amorin Urges Ratification of GATT Accords *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 1 Dec]* 45
Cardoso Choice of Malan as Finance Minister Confirmed *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 46
Rio Slum Residents Raise Torture Charges Against Army *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 29 Nov]* 47
    War College Head Wants Army Withdrawal *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 30 Nov]* 47
    Future Rio Defense Chief Wants Army To Stay *[O GLOBO 1 Dec]* 47
    Marines, Army Conduct Operations *[O GLOBO 1 Dec]* 48
First Brazilian Ombudsman Installed *[Brasilia Radio]* 48

Chile

Frei Returns From Mexico, Views Meeting With Castro *[Santiago TV]* 49
Ecuador Interested in Arms Company Production *[EL MERCURIO 24 Nov]* 49
Committee Approves Debate on Reforms *[EL MERCURIO 24 Nov]* 49

Colombia

Samper Hails U.S. Decision To Reestablish Border Radar *[Hamburg DPA]* 50
    Foreign Minister Praises Decision *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 51
Foreign Minister on Miami Summit Expectations *[NOTIMEX]* 51
EU Reduces Preferential Customs Tariffs for Local Products *[EL TIEMPO 26 Nov]* 51
Military Forces Renew Commitments to Peace, Security *[EL TIEMPO 29 Nov]* 52

Ecuador

Duran Ballen Confirms Attendance at Miami Summit *[Hamburg DPA]* 53
    To Stress Free Trade *[NOTIMEX]* 53

Paraguay

Salvadoran Defense Minister Begins Official Visit *[NOTICIAS 2 Dec]* 54
    Says Military Must be 'Apolitical' *[ULTIMA HORA 2 Dec]* 54

Peru

Fujimori Doubts Success of Miami Summit Goals *[NOTIMEX]* 54
Shining Path Attacks Mark Guzman's Birthday *[NOTIMEX]* 55

Uruguay

Lacalle Terms Trade 'Test of Love' for Miami Summit *[Madrid EFE]* 55
    Miami Summit Issues Reviewed *[EL PAIS 26 Nov]* 56

Venezuela

Congress Approves 1995 Budget, Umbrella Law *[Caracas TV]* 57
Congress Passes Law on Foreign Exchange Crimes *[Caracas TV]* 58
Alien Affairs Directorate To Be Reorganized *[EL UNIVERSAL 1 Dec]* 58

Guyana

Summit Delegates Listed; Jagan To Propose Development Fund *[CANA]* 58

Peru's Yoshiyama Opens Asia-Pacific Legislative Forum

PY0212000694 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Nov 94 p A3

[FBIS Translated Text] Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama last night said that he is convinced that in the future, Peruvian exports to Pacific Rim countries will double. Furthermore, he urged Pacific Rim countries to significantly increase their investments in Peru.

Yoshiyama said this during the opening of the Asia-Pacific Legislative Forum Executive Committee [Comite Ejecutivo del Foro Parlamentario Asia-Pacifico] meeting, which was presided over by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Yoshiyama said that Peru has undertaken one of the most ambitious economic programs to lure foreign capital. To this effect it has signed a series of agreements with several countries in the region for the promotion and protection of mutual investments, "which will promote foreign investment in Peru."

He added that the establishment of a new order in the Asia-Pacific region, and the appearance of new protagonists of international importance in this region, calls for the enforcement of mechanisms to coordinate joint undertakings.

Yoshiyama also stressed the importance of promoting security measures and the strengthening of international agreements to avoid an arms race and nuclear proliferation in the region.

He said that legislators from the Asia-Pacific region should be aware of the serious social and economic problems affecting the countries in the region, and propose appropriate measures to their respective governments.

One of these measures could be the establishment of economic and technical cooperation programs among Pacific Rim countries. This cooperation should be at all levels and in keeping with the different levels of development in each individual country.

Yoshiyama said that he hopes that strong political determination will result in greater rapprochement and cooperation in the region at the government, business, academic, and cultural levels, "which will allow us to together face international problems such as the safeguarding of the environment and the scourge of drug trafficking."

Moreover, Yasuhiro Nakasone, president of the Asia-Pacific Legislative Forum, said that his government is viewing with special interest the real investment possibilities Peru has to offer.

In view of this, he added, it is studying important Peruvian government achievements, such as the curbing of inflation and the increase in the GDP.

He said that there is great interest in mining, fishing, and agriculture. Nakasone stated that there are specific studies on investments in Peru "because this beautiful country has made important achievements in its socioeconomic development."

The legislative meeting, which closes on 23 November, is attended by eight congressional delegations, among them those of South Korea; Japan; the United States; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; and Thailand, all of which are Executive Committee members. The Peruvian and Canadian delegations are attending as observers.

The Asia-Pacific Legislative Forum was established in 1990 at the initiative of Yasuhiro Nakasone, who at the time was Japanese prime minister. The objective of this forum is to increase dialogue among legislators on issues of common interest, with the objective of strengthening stability, freedom, democracy, security, and development in the region.

Latin American Presidents Cited on Miami Summit

PA0312033694 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 56

[FBIS Translated Text] Presidents of eight Latin American countries have said they believe the topic of free trade is fundamental at the next Summit of the Americas scheduled to be held in Miami from 9 to 11 December.

The heads of state of Panama, Colombia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Guatemala, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Argentina have stated their positions regarding the upcoming continental summit, where the topic of drug trafficking and democracy occupy the back seat.

Regarding their relations with Mexico, they all have agreed they are "excellent," although Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares has told EL FINANCIERO he hopes they will improve with the new governments installed in both countries.

Drug Trafficking and the Andean Countries

One would think that for the Andean countries, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia, where the drug trafficking problem is pressing and has inflicted serious damage on the economic-political infrastructure, this issue would be the primary topic.

In the words of Bolvian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, free trade is fundamental, however. He has called on the need to set a date for the integration of a continental common market.

Concerning drug trafficking, Sanchez de Lozada has said: "It should be a topic that should unite producer, transit, and consumer nations. We should seek definite solutions, because the situation is worsening instead of improving as things are going now.

"Drug trafficking is important, but a decision to create a common market is even more important, because we could get the people who cultivate the coca plant to stop doing so if jobs can be created. We need new markets to do so."

Only industrial work could be the alternative to the cultivation of the coca plant in his opinion. "That point is why we give so much importance to it," he has said. We should find industrial-type activities in which creativity can be sold, he has said.

Colombian President Ernesto Samper has informed EL FINANCIERO of the three proposals Colombia will take to the Miami summit and his country's position on drug trafficking:

"First, we want to discuss an alternative model of development, which Latin America needs. Greater emphasis should be placed on topics such as social aspects and good government. Second, we want to discuss the fight against drug trafficking. We believe a proposal should be signed to promote an inter-American fight against the laundering of dollars. Third, a proposal containing an anticorruption statute should be signed."

He asks for cooperation to fight drug trafficking from all angles.

The Central Americans, A Common Position

United "today more than ever," as all the Central American presidents say, the group will present a joint position on the topic of trade at the Miami summit and a rejection of California's anti-immigrant Proposition 187.

Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol has said in an interview the proposal is called "Alliance for Sustainable Development." We agree, he has said, on topics such as trade, the strengthening of democracy, honest, democratic regimes, corruption, honesty in our financial systems.

"I believe we must adopt a policy against drug trafficking. The agenda that has been drafted coincides with Central American proposals, and trade will be a priority, because jobs are not created without it," he added.

Ramiro De Leon Carpio of Guatemala added: "The Alliance for Sustainable Development represents what our countries should be—democratically and socially developed with regard to our natural surroundings and the protection of our environment.

"We are not going to ask for democracy, for the fulfillment of the needs our people. We want the opportunity to participate and to prepare ourselves for that free trade," he has said.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, in her characteristic way of speaking, has said foreign investments have increased in her country and relations with Mexico have improved since she assumed power in her country.

A common point among the three Central American presidents is the recognition of the tour of the region the current Mexican president, Ernesto Zedillo, conducted a few days ago.

"Central America is important for Mexico," Calderon Sol has said. Regarding "Proposition 187," which is considered a "juridical monstrosity" that violates a series of international accords, the Central American bloc will express its repudiation, and the Salvadoran Government in particular will ask for an extension of the stay of Salvadorans in the United States.

In this regard, Calderon Sol has said he has received assurances there will be no forceful deportation, and he called on Latin America to conduct an analysis of immigration and to create a common front in view of the positions of "certain U.S. sectors wanting to revive old nationalism."

Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares has said he hopes the Miami summit is not dominated by the Cuban-U.S. bilateral problem but that it will be a summit where Latin America establishes its position on free trade and drug trafficking.

"Our position is one of cooperating in the struggle against drug trafficking, a struggle that will take some time but for which we need international support and assistance," he added.

The "laundering" of money from drug traffickers is another problem created by that illicit activity. Panama is fighting it "with all legal mechanisms we have. One of them is to demand responsibilities, especially from those attorneys who have used secrecy. Now, when required by competent authorities, they must say for whom they work, enabling authorities to determine where corruption begins so that action can be taken."

South America Asks Regional Integration

Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem has said in Miami his country will call for a process of integration for all of the Americas, in keeping with a proposal made some time ago: support all regional processes such as NAFTA and Mercosur [Common Market of the South] on 1 January 1995.

He will call for an all-out war against terrorism, drug trafficking, and narcodollars, as well as "a very special position on women to advance in something which we think is distasteful and which occurs in various countries of the continent: discrimination."

Regarding the constitutional modification allowing the reelection, Menem has said "it is already done. This is the first time all parties agree on an issue. We are already working with a view to 14 May, when elections will take place, and I will be the candidate for the Justicialist Party."

Menem has said he will further all things he has implemented and will give more emphasis to the social sector. He will also work to maintain this excellent level regarding international relations.

Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy has considered the same proposals for the summit that have been presented from Miami: free trade and drug trafficking. Drug trafficking, he has remarked, must be fought jointly by all producing, transit, and consuming countries. Paraguay is sometimes a country of transit. Just as Menem, he has said he will support all integration processes, especially Mercosur, which enters into force on 1 January 1995.

The anti-immigrant Proposition 187, which was approved last November in California, was criticized by most of the guests at Zedillo's inauguration as president of Mexico. In addition to the Central American position rejecting the proposition, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has said it "will mark relations with the Hispanic world. The essence of the United States is immigration, and Proposition 187 is unacceptable."

We cannot say in the case of the United States immigration has represented a step backward, because we would realize it is a country basically built by immigrants if we take a look at history. This is a historic anomaly in the U.S. process. We must not dramatize, Gonzalez concluded.

Meanwhile, President Carlos Menem has said he did not want to assess the situation. We have open borders, he added. We have over 1 million Paraguayans, Bolivians, Brazilians, Chileans, but we always request documents, and there is no problem from that moment on.

Foreign citizens in Argentina residing in our country for more than 10 years will be able to vote in the May elections, Menem has said.

Leaders' Interest in Summit of Americas Topics Noted

FL0412211894 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Dec 4, CANA—Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds will lead a six member St. Kitts/Nevis delegation to the Summit of the Americas, scheduled to open this week in Miami.

According to government sources the team will also include Nevisian Premier Vance Amory, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Joseph Parry, Financial Secretary Wendell Lawrence, Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs Clarita Richards and the Federation's Ambassador to the United States, Erstein Edwards.

Simmonds joins 34 heads of government from the U.S., Canada, Central and South America as well as the Caribbean at the December 9-11 summit, being hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The St. Kitts/Nevis government together with the other Caribbean countries will be seeking through dialogue with the U.S., more direct assistance in terms of development financing, tourism development, human resources development. Parity for Caribbean trade with the United States, amouting to similar conditions to Mexico-U.S trade, the U.S position on support for Latin America's so- called dollar banana trade with Europe and other issues related to economic development in the region are among issues the Caribbean governments want talks at the summit to focus on.

Caribbean leaders are also looking for help in strengthening of national and regional security, environmental protection, the elimination of illegal trafficking in drugs and ammunition, and the facilitation of greater access to science and technology for development, the DEMOCRAT newspaper said.

"The government of St Kitts and Nevis will also be lending most valuable support to the Windward Islands and Jamaica in their quest for a better deal on the issues of trade in bananas and the reduction of international debt," the paper stated.

The impact of new free trade arrangements and the vital issue of sustainable development with particular emphasis on the needs of small island developing states like St Kitts/Nevis will also be raised, the DEMOCRAT added.

UNHCR for Central America Criticizes Proposition 187

PA0212222494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2338 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] San Jose, 1 Dec (DPA)—In Costa Rica today, Ghanaian citizen Kofi Odei Asomani, UNHCR for Central America and Panama, severely criticized Proposition 187, which intends to exclude illegal immigrants in the State of California from receiving social benefits.

In a conference with foreign neewsmen, Asomani said the UNHCR "opposes" all political measures that "could cause problems to immigrants." After describing the proposal as "a very heavy blow," he said that it violates "several fundamental principles whose fulfillment the United States has been demanding from other countries." As the result of this "repression" measure, the immigrants entering the state would become "a sort of refugees," he added.

Asomani, who arrived in San Jose to attend an international worskhop to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Cartagena de Indias' Declaration on Refugees, said: "We oppose the proposal as a matter of principle. We do not think it is good at all."

In the workshop, where about 30 experts will participate, planned strategies will be presented for an adequate discussion of the issue of the refugees and how to deal with it, as well as the new challenges in the field.

Asomani said that Proposition 187 "is a heavy blow because the United States is the country that has most strongly supported the construction of a framework of international protection and humanitarian law." "We are always concerned whenever we see signs such as Proposition 187," he added. The United States, he said, "cannot do what it wants."

If the proposition goes through, it would affect some 5 million Mexican immigrants and thousands of Latin Americans who regularly enter the United States in search of better opportunities.

Conversely, however, Asomani played down the impact of the Washington decision to cancel the temporary residence visas of some 180,000 Salvadorans. He recalled that the measure occurs at a time of political change in El Salvador, and that this eliminated the high-risk conditions for the return of those people. In addition, he said, the announcement is aimed at causing a political effect within the United States.

Central American Ministers Modify Property Rights Accords

PA0412044394 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 14A

[Protocol of Modification of the Central American Agreement on the Protection of Industrial Property]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua agreed yesterday:

1. To make the necessary efforts to present the Protocol of Modification of the Central American Agreement on the Protection of Industrial Property, which was signed yesterday, to their respective national legislative branches for its prompt approval and subsequent ratification.

2. To request that SIECA [Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration] follow up on the approval and ratification of the Protocol and that it coordinate activities to draft regulations to implement this instrument.

3. To request technical cooperation from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the financial support of the Inter- American Development Bank (IDB) to prepare and implement a regional technical cooperation program on industrial property matters.

4. To task Salvadoran Justice Minister Ruben Antonio Mejia Pena with taking the necessary steps before IDB and WIPO authorities to ensure the technical cooperation outlined in the preceding point.

Caricom Expects Increase in Sugar Exports to EU

FL0112135594 Bridgetown CANA in English 2251 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 30, CANA—Caribbean Community (CARICOM) sugar producing states expect to supply an additional 80,000 to 100,000 tonnes of sugar to the lucrative preferential markets in the European Union [EU].

The directors of the Sugar Assocation of the Caribbean (SAC) during the recent 115th meeting held in Jamaica, noted that the European Union had earlier this month adopted proposals for reforming the sugar regime that will allow for additional sugar exports to the EU, a statement from the state Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) said Tuesday [29 November].

The European Union recently agreed to alter the sugar regime.

The statement from GUYSUCO said a mechanism to negotiate a six- year agreement with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries will be established.

In the past, the ACP had lobbied for the right to supply the entire deficit balance of supplies required by EU refiners at the full guaranteed price.

Negotiations between the European Union and the ACP will focus on the level of the purchase price to be paid by the refiners for this additional access to sugar, the statement said.

The SAC directors, according to the GUYSUCO statement, described progress in this respect as "an encouraging development that would provide the basis for the ACP to negotiate with the European Union to achieve the objective of additional access at the guranteed price".

According to the directors, the new agreements are expected to begin July 1, 1995 and be in force until 2001.

The SAC noted a consistent upward swing in the region's sugar production since 1989 and confirmed that sugar would be available to meet fresh needs at "guaranteed prices".

Sugar production in the region climbed from 651,000 tonnes in 1989 and is expected to peak at 802,406 tonnes in 1994.

SAC directors, the statement said, feel that it would be necessary for ACP producers to have an attractive agreement for the entire six-year period during which the additional access sugar would be sold to the EU.

"They have noted that the sugar protocol, under which the ACP countries currently supply sugar to the EU at a guaranteed price, is now enshrined in GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and remains in place and continues duration without review," the statement said.

The SAC directors also support representation to the United States government to enable any SAC member to supply any shortfall to other members.

The current system is not geared to allow any SAC member to supply any part of the quota belonging to another in the event of a shortfall.

"Agreement to this proposal would ensure that the full benefit of access to the us market will be retained," the statement said.

Trinidad and Tobago's Dr. Kusba Haraksingh is the new SAC chairman and GUYSUCO marketing and administration director. Ian MacDonald has been re-elected chairman of marketing.

FACh Commander Opens Latin American Space Agency Meeting

PY0212022494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Nov 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the meeting of Latin American Space Agency officials that is being held this week in Santiago, Chilean Air Force (FACh) Commander Ramon Vega said yesterday that "we will pave the way for establishing a Chilean space agency, which will be the pioneer of its kind in South America."

Vega added that although its jurisdiction is still to be established, the space agency will certainly operate at the government level.

Gen. Vega, who attended the opening ceremony of the international meeting, which started yesterday and is being held at the Foreign Ministry building, said that the first Chilean satellite "Fasat-Alfa" will be launched into space aboard either a Russian or Ukrainian rocket.

He said: "The project is being developed, and in view of the experiments undertaken we can assert that it is a fact."

In his speech, Vega emphasized the importance of these meetings because space issues "have been discussed in Europe for decades. In view of this the FACh has assumed this responsibility at the national level, with the government's support."

During the opening ceremony Ambassador Pablo Cabrera Gaete, the Foreign Ministry space policy department director, said that "among other things, one of the objectives of this meeting is to assess the issue of cooperation from the diplomatic and scientific point of view, because there are still many technological gaps and realities separating the various states; these should, however, not be an obstacle for the adoption of joint positions."

Cabrera added that space technology "allows us to have an international view, which when implemented in its natural dimension has helped us give form to what has been called technopolitics."

The meeting, which is headed by Minister Counselor Ramiro Riobo Pinones, "pro-tempore" chairman of the Second Space Conference of the Americas, is scheduled to close on 30 November.

Cuba

Castro's Meetings, Statements in Mexico Detailed

Meets With Mexico's New President

FL0312151994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro met with Ernesto Zedillo, new president of Mexico, at Los Pinos Palace this morning, a day after Zedillo's inauguration. Yesterday's ceremony was attended by representatives from most countries in the continent.

As part of his bilateral agenda in Mexico, Fidel met yesterday in private with out-going President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. He also attended the gathering hosted by Zedillo for leaders of delegations invited to the transfer of power. Fidel held several meetings with national and foreign personalities, including OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, and the presidents of Chile, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Spain.

[At 2032 GMT 2 Dec Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish adds:

["After concluding his meeting with President Zedillo, Fidel visited the family home of former president Lazaro Cardenas, where he was received by Lazaro's widow, Amalia (Zorotano) and the Democratic Revolutionary Party's former presidential candidate, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. Lazaro Cardenas, who was president from 1938 to 1940, nationalized petroleum and the railroad, paid particular attention to the health and education sectors, and gave workers a special place in society. During his visit to Cardenas' home, Fidel conversed with relatives and associates of the Mexican leader. The visit was carried out in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, and several of the leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party extended their greetings to Fidel.

["According to PRENSA LATINA, Delegate Marta Roble informed Fidel about the preparations for the International Meeting of Parliament Members in Solidarity With Cuba, scheduled to be held in 1995 in Mexico City. The possibility of moving the site of the meeting to Havana was advanced, as the Cuban capital is considered to have better conditions for the meeting."]

Meets Press at Embassy 2 Dec

FL0512013694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[News conference by President Fidel Castro with unidentified Cuban correspondents following a visit to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico, on 2 December; from the "NTV" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Commander, how do feel about begin here on such a significant date, 2 December?

[Castro] The hardest part is going to be tonight. [Words indistinct] 400 Cubans full of enthusiasm and patriotic fervor, fully committed to helping their country. I was very, very, very moved by this get-together.

[Correspondent] What about the meeting with businessmen?

[Castro] It was good, very friendly. Several of them are already cooperating with us and have joint businesses with us. This cooperation is mutually beneficial.

[Correspondent] Will they continue participating [words indistinct]?

[Castro] Yes. There is a growing interest in investing in Cuba and in continuing to develop cooperation with us and alongside us.

[Correspondent] Commander, was anything said during your meeting with President Zedillo about the incoming government's views on Mexican-Cuban relations?

[Castro] He began by saying that relations will remain unchanged and that they will continue to work toward improving relations even further.

[Correspondent] What are your thoughts on Zedillo's inaugural address?

[Castro] My opinion—and I told him so—is that I found his address steady, serene, modest, and humble. His language was that of peace. That is what I found most impressive. [Words indistinct] solving problems peacefully and stressed the importance of social development.

[Correspondent] He also defended Mexicans abroad—that is, he mentioned Proposition 187.

[Castro] [Words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Yes, commander, but at a time marked by the general rejection of Proposition 187.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] the Mexican people toward that proposition.

[Correspondent] Do you think it ought to be raised at the forthcoming Miami summit?

[Castro] I do not know how this issue can escape their attention. However, in this case, the U.S. Administration is opposed to that proposition. Yet, the fact that it was approved is a very negative sign. I didn't think it would ever pass. In the end, it aroused great opposition. This shows a level of xenophobia, a rejection of foreigners [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Could other states approve it?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] to remember those days?

[Correspondent] Of course, you left here.

[Castro] An excellent place, which became historic for us.

[Correspondent] The Tuspan-38 participants sent a letter.

[Castro] Yes, I received a very pretty letter from them. They are headed that way, and I am here [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] that you were here, and I was even asked by Radio Rebelde. I told them you have been very busy and I had not been able to get your statements.

[Castro] Yes. We have been very busy. Much time is lost traveling here. The distances are great. I am staying at the embassy residence because it is closer. I spent the first three of six hours driving. [Words indistinct] it is hard to take.

[Correspondent] Mexico City's population is expected to grow to 31 million by the year 2000.

[Castro] I don't even want to think about it.

[Correspondent] What about the meeting with other [words indistinct] about the future of Mexican relations?

[Castro] They are very good and indispensable. It was also necessary to reaffirm our solidarity with Mexico at this time.

[Correspondent] President Zedillo has tried to encourage Central American countries to enter into free trade accords. What about Cuba?

[Castro] Well, the option is not out of the question, once conditions are convenient for them. That is a prerogative the Mexican state has, to establish free trade agreements with Latin American countries. This is a very important integrationist trend.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] asking to join the accord are small countries [words indistinct].

[Castro] Yes, [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Were relations brought up during the meeting with the Chilean president?

[Castro] Well, I did not want to directly broach the subject with President Frei out of courtesy. We spoke about general things, Latin American and many diverse issues. The meeting was also very pleasant. This is the second time I met with him in private. I am getting to know him much better. I saw from the start that he is a serious man.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]?

[Castro] Yes, an office. We have good relations with Costa Rica. They are interested in commercial relations in certain sectors and cooperating in some fields. They want to develop their sports and to have an office [words indistinct] for whenever there are people seeking to emigrate. The important thing, the goal is [words indistinct] the Costa Rican office there. This is a step forward.

[Correspondent] Commander, [words indistinct] the Bolivian president, what he said about relations with Cuba was very friendly.

[Castro] He is an outstanding man. Since I first met him [words indistinct].

Denies Asking Countries To Broach Blockade

PA0212134894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0345 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 1 Dec (PL)—President Fidel Castro emphasized today that the Miami hemispheric summit to be held next week will not discuss the U.S. blockade, which has been in force for over three decades.

In remarks to Mexico City media, the Cuban leader denied having asked the area presidents to bring up the blockade at the Summit of the Americas.

Castro said: "Each Latin American and Caribbean country is going there to look after their own problems, which are a handful, not to add another one, which is ours."

The head of state also harshly criticized Proposition 187, noting that "it reminds me of Adolf Hitler. [no end quotation mark as received]

Shortly before going to a dinner that will be hosted by Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo tonight, Fidel Castro admitted he had followed a full schedule on the second day of his visit to this nation. The Cuban president met with Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Costa Rican Resident Jose Maria Figueres, Chilean President Eduardo Frei, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria.

Meets Mexican Businessmen

PA0312220594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0715 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Report by Frank Gonzalez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 3 Nov—Cuban President Fidel Castro has met with a group of important Mexican industrial leaders, bankers, and businessmen who have businesses on the island or are about to set up such businesses.

Some 50 businessmen from various regions, including some from the influential Monterrey Group, attended yesterday's meeting with the president, with whom they held lively talks for about two hours.

During the meeting, several entrepreneurs spoke about Cuba's advantages for their investments in various fields and highlighted the Cuban people's great professionalism and technical ability.

The president agreed with this sentiment, and he added that Cuban workers also excel in terms of business honesty and integrity—a statement supported by those already operating businesses on the island.

Among those in attendance were Francisco Lopez Barredo, president of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs [CEMAI]; Fernando Pita, head of the CEMAI's Latin American Coordination Committee; and Mauricio Fernandez Garza, an industrialist who is also a National Action Party senator.

During informal talks with guests, Fidel Castro chatted about development opportunities in Cuba, NAFTA, and other topics.

In the middle of the talks, several businessmen and their wives asked to be photographed with the revolutionary leader. One by one they stood at his side for the memento.

One of the people who patiently awaited his turn for a photograph eloquently described his respect and admiration for the statesman when the time came for his photograph. "I also want to go down in history," he said.

There were autographs and handshakes; frequent pleasantries were exchanged from both sides; and the meeting was tinged with suggestions, questions, and commentaries on links with Cuba.

Fernando Ipita spoke on behalf of the entrepreneurs and told Fidel Castro that Castro's great affection for Mexico is a feeling that is reciprocated.

Ipita said: I want a strong Mexico and a strong Cuba, both united within the American context.

In reply, Castro spoke about the need to become united as a great economic power to avoid being devoured by others in different latitudes.

We have full confidence in Mexico, and we are proud that it is currently the country with the best investment relationship with Cuba, Castro underscored.

In this case, he said, aside from economic interests, very strong feelings of affection, friendship, and gratitude toward Mexico also exist.

While comparing the island to the Castle of Chapultepec, where many children were willing to die embracing the flag, the president recalled last century's example of the heroic Mexican cadets who opted for death rather than surrender to the invading U.S. troops.

Castro remembered Jose Marti when he said that with Cuba's independence, Latin America's independence is also defended.

Comments on Miami Summit, Proposition 187

PA0412001794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0725 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Report by Miguel Lozano]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 3 Dec (PL)—The Cuban president has termed positive his Mexico visit, during which he met with his counterpart Ernesto Zedillo, a group of businessmen, politicians, friendly personalities, and Cubans who live here.

Questioned by PRENSA LATINA on the meeting with approximately 50 businessmen held here yesterday, Fidel Castro stressed he sensed a growing interest in investing in Cuba and to continue developing mutually beneficial cooperation.

In general, he termed the visit "very good" and indispensable, because he believes it is necessary to express Cuban solidarity with Mexico in these times.

Castro stressed that, during his meeting with the Mexican president, Zedillo expressed his determination to maintain unchanged the good relations between the two countries and to continue working to improve ties.

According to the Cuban president, Zedillo's inauguration speech emphasized seeking solutions to problems through peaceful means and social development, as well as a determination to defend the rights of Mexicans outside the nation's borders.

Fidel Castro asserted it will be very difficult to leave the issue of discriminatory policies out of the upcoming Miami summit, because the so-called Proposition 187, which was approved in California to block immigrants' access to educational and medical services, is profoundly racist.

He remarked that, in the beginning, he did not believe such an initiative would be adopted, but its approval shows a level of xenophobia and rejection of foreigners and immigrants reminiscent of the era of Adolf Hitler.

In this regard, the Cuban president contended that should Mexico present an initiative at the United Nations against the racist law, Cuba would support any such motion "with all our energy and fervor."

Regarding the meetings held here with various heads of state and other personalities, he noted that, although Cuba is not a member of the OAS, he met with OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria.

Castro explained: He is a friend and a person I have known during the years he served as president, and we have established a relationship of confidence. The conversation was satisfying, although Cuba's possible return to the organization was not discussed.

"It is still not time. All things must await their time. It is not an urgent matter. For us, it is more important to wipe out the blockade," the president stated.

Castro added that he did not want to discuss the issue of the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Chilean President Eduardo Frei, because he considered it inappropriate to address this issue in such a short interview, one he termed "pleasant" and devoted to Latin American affairs.

The president recalled this was the second time he had met with Frei, adding that each time they meet he has a better impression of Frei. "From the first moment, I knew he was a responsible man and a man of conviction," Castro noted.

Regarding his conversation with Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres, Castro explained that the determination to soon open an immigration affairs office in Havana corresponds to the good relations between the two nations and Figueres' interest in furthering trade opportunities, sports cooperation, and other matters.

He said this office will be devoted to processing the cases of people wishing to emigrate, but the important thing is the opening of a Costa Rican mission, which he called "a valuable step."

Concerning his meeting with Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Fidel Castro affirmed that, beginning with their first meeting, a bond of friendship and affection was established. "He is a great person," Castro emphasized.

The Cuban leader also termed his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez as "good and pleasant," one in which they expressed feelings of friendship and affection.

When answering reporters' questions here at the end of a meeting with Cubans residing in Mexico, Fidel Castro did not rule out his country's possible incorporation into a regional free trade agreement when conditions are right.

Returns to Havana From Mexico

PA0312232394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2127 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Dec (PL)—Cuban President Fidel Castro returned today to Havana, after concluding his trip to Mexico.

General Raul Castro, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba; Vice President Carlos Lage; and Interior Minister Abelardo Colome Ibarra welcomed Castro at the airport.

The chief of state was invited to the inauguration of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon as the new president of Mexico, which took place on 1 December.

During his stay in Mexico, Fidel Castro held meetings with Zedillo, as well as with other presidents present for the ceremony, Mexican business representatives, Cubans residing in that country, and other prominent figures.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Migration, Summit

FL0212165694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Manuel Alfonso, during a Havana news conference, announced January talks between Cuba and the United States on the recent migration accords. Alfonso stated that the U.S. Government has assured Cuba that it will not move Cuban minors held in the Guantanamo Naval Base to the United States.

Alfonso stated that without Cuba's presence, it would be an aberration to discuss Cuban issues at the Americas Summit, in Miami on 9-11 December.

Alfonso pointed out that the most prestigious politicians in the continent agree that because of Cuba's absence, it would be illogical to make any decisions at the summit

Commentary on Miami Summit 'Snub,' Debate on Drug War

PA0412213494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 94

["Our America" commentary by Ignacio Canel; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Summit of the Americas is rapidly approaching, and everything would seem to indicate it is predestined to come and go without much ado; that is, nothing concrete will come from this forum which has raised such great expectations.

When one takes a look at the number of days the so-called hemispheric summit will last, one has reason to believe that nothing positive will be accomplished. It is quite possible that, with the exception of one or two agreements which may or may not benefit Latin America, the summit could rapidly be forgotten primarily because it has not been organized in any way whatsoever to benefit a region always considered the United States' backyard.

Ever since U.S. President Bill Clinton summoned his Latin American colleagues for a summit organized to take place in the controversial city of Miami—an ill-advised decision—the time factor has deflated the issues initially believed to occupy the central focus of the agenda.

Therefore, there is great uncertainty concerning discussions related to free trade. At any rate, it would seem that there might be talks on the trade issue with Chile and other countries that are reportedly of interest to Washington.

On the other hand, it is possible that the American President could once again resort to the ever trite and even less respected U.S. diatribe on democracy and respect for human rights.

From the very beginning, and by using democracy as a pretext, the White House decided not to invite Cuba to the Summit of the Americas because, according to the United States, there is no democracy on the island. Nevertheless, because the concept of democracy per se has been so manipulated and arbitrarily applied, even within the United States itself, there is no reason to feel offended because of the snub.

What the Latin American presidents should be very careful about is an issue the United States has been able to introduce into the summit's agenda: drug trafficking. This sensitive issue, one in which the North American nation has much or even more of the blame than the South Americans, is often used by U.S. specialists to discuss all human rights and hemispheric security problems.

Lurking behind these two issues we can find the Pentagon, which now has twisted the struggle against drug trafficking into a problem involving the defense of human rights.

Lee Brown, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, recently remarked: We must categorically reaffirm that our efforts to control the flow of drugs into the United States are efforts aimed at protecting individual rights. The pronouncement was made at a Pentagon facility in Washington.

This same approach was supported by General William McCaffrey [first name as heard], commander of the U.S. Southern Command, who also said the human rights issues was part of the struggle against drug trafficking.

Either of these approaches can be very dangerous to our countries. By resorting to pretexts such as safeguarding human rights, and in passing, national security, the United States could try to impose its presence in Latin America through organizations such as the DEA or FBI, which could just be an excuse to legitimize its intervention.

Even though Miami, the site of the event, may not be the ideal place to talk about drug trafficking and drug consumption, it is possible that the United States could find itself unable to avoid the touchy issue of domestic demand and consumption.

In closing, and although the conference may have lost some of the interest it attracted when first announced, there are still some double-edged issues that should not go unnoticed under the threat of later turning into a trap.

Havana Protests Exclusion From Miami Customs Summit

FL0212220294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2037 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuba has protested to the Customs Cooperation Council, headquartered in Brussels, over being excluded from the upcoming international customs symposium to be held in Miami shortly before the Summit of the Americas. Cuban Customs Chief Fernando Bello Garcia said that the 4-6 December symposium will deal with the customs issues of trade and finances. He said that the U.S. Customs Department has invited all countries on the continent except Cuba. Although Bello Garcia admitted that the Summit of the Americas and the international customs symposium are two distinct events, he pointed out that it is up to the U.S. Customs Department whether to invite Cuba or not. Bello Garcia explained that all international customs forums are important, particularly now that the nations of the hemisphere are ever more insistent on reaching a higher level of integration.

Daniel Ortega on 'Bed Rest' in Havana Hospital

FL0212165594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is keeping absolute bed rest in a Cuban hospital were he is recovering from a condition detected during a medical check-up in Havana to assess symptoms that surfaced while attending the First World Solidarity With Cuba Conference.

Does Not Require Surgery

PA0412042194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0320 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Dec (PL)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who has been admitted to a hospital in the Cuban capital, will not have to undergo any kind of surgery, a source close to the political leader said today.

The Cuban team of physicians treating Nicaragua's secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) drafted their first conclusions today, and they now believe the case can be resolved without surgery, according to Father Miguel d'Escoto, who is accompanying Ortega.

The Nicaraguan leader arrived in Havana on 22 November to participate in the First World Solidarity With Cuba Conference. After being taken ill, doctors ran tests and detected that he had suffered a minor heart attack approximately three months ago.

According to d'Escoto, former Nicaraguan foreign minister for the Sandinist government, Ortega's Cuban physicians will announce on Monday [4 December] the details and duration of the treatment he will undergo. Ortega is currently being treated at the Medical-Surgical Research Center (CIMEX) in this capital.

North Korean General Visits Revolution Museum

FL0512010094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A North Korean delegation visited Havana's Museum of the Revolution this afternoon. People's Air Force Commander Cho Myong-nok toured exhibits on the landing of the yacht Granma and on the rebel struggle. Cho Myong-nok told our reporter afterward:

[Begin Cho recording, in Korean with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We have seen that despite the current difficult conditions, the Cuban people, under the leadership of [words indistinct] the flag of socialism and making efforts to overcome the problems through their own efforts. We also feel very proud of having here, in Latin America, a people and army [words indistinct]. [end recording]

DPRK Marshal Sends Congratulations to Raul Castro

FL0212194694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] O Chin-u, Marshal of the Korean People's Army, has sent a message of congratulations to Army General Raul Castro. The message coincides with the 38th anniversary of the landing of the yacht Granma and Revolutionary Armed Forces Day. In the message, O Chin-u expresses trust in the strengthening of the traditional ties of cooperation and friendship between the armed forces of both countries.

Military Excercises Slated for National Defense Day

PA0312234294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1607 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Dec (PL)—Millions of Cubans will participate in military exercises to be held in the country tomorrow to commemorate National Defense Day, it was reported here today.

The main objective of Sunday's military activities is to conduct exercises that encourage top-quality personnel training and tactics that require the increased participation of troops and the civilian population, GRANMA, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba, underscored today.

According to plans, each municipality will hold tactical classes on defense objectives and ambushes. They also will assign missions to the Territorial Militia Troops [MTT] and the Production and Defense Brigade areas.

They also will carry out reforestation duties and actions to bolster the environment, review the basic study material, and further patriotic training and evacuation-related tasks.

Some young people will listen to the experiences of Cuban Revolution Combatants Association members, and others will register in compulsory military service.

Armed Forces officers, GRANMA reports, will continue to hold methodology classes for the chiefs of small and medium-sized units; military rifle ranges also will be used for training.

In a commentary on National Defense Day, the newspaper asserted that institutions and organizations at all levels of society are working intensely to organize and prepare a system capable of ensuring the definite and effective incorporation of millions of people into the country's defense-related tasks.

In Cuba there are more than 60,000 Production and Defense Brigades comprising approximately 3.5 million citizens who do not belong to the Armed Forces, the Interior Ministry, the MTT, or the local Defense Councils.

These brigades, according to the newspaper article, constitute the most popular manifestation of the war of all the people—a system under which the people participate in the defense of the country.

Day Observed Nationwide

FL0512025894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Provinces and municipalities nationwide staged many ceremonies in celebration of National Defense Day today.

Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque elevated Santiago de Cuba city to the status of Protected Municipality and City During the Second Phase in a ceremony that was cochaired by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces General Staff. Thus, the cradle of the Revolution becomes the first large city to be elevated to this status in Cuba. This encourages Santiago de Cuba residents to increase preparations for the war of all the people, to attain the status of Ready for Defense in the Second Phase by the time of the 117th anniversary of the Baragua uprising.

Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, chief of the Eastern Army, praised this unique effort:

[Begin Espinosa recording] Santiago de Cuba's efforts have been remarkable in [words indistinct]. It is enough to say that this municipality builds more kilometers of defense tunnels every year than many of the other provinces. [applause] [end recording]

National Defense Day activities in Havana focused on industrial and agricultural production activities and combat training. Alongside members of the Fighter Brigade, our television newscast team had the opportunity to see from a height of over 150 meters the efforts of militiamen and women in the 19 Havana Province municipalities.

We learned of Bejucal's initiative in creating facilities to care for children while parents are in training, an initiative applicable to every corner of Cuba. The trip finally concluded in Guines Municipality, where a group of militiamen received recognition medals and 957 were promoted.

Centro Habana Municipality, in the heart of Havana, was the site of a parade, which the contagious happiness of our pioneers and the revolutionary fervor of the Territorial Troops Militia, mass organizations, and the National Revolutionary Police turned into a street party. Meanwhile, troops in other Havana municipalities participated in various activities and pioneers conducted scouting exercises in their schools.

Esteban Lazo, a Politburo member and Cuban Communist Party first secretary in Havana, said at the end of the Centro Habana parade:

[Begin Lazo recording] Defense Day has been great. Centro Habana residents have given our commander in chief and Raul a gift as we observe the anniversary of the Granma's landing. It is also a good gift to themselves for, ultimately, everything we do we do for ourselves. Congratulations! [end recording]

Lazo Extols Day's Importance

FL0412232794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everything is ready throughout Cuba to carry out National Defense Day activities on 4 December. Esteban Lazo, Politburo member and Cuban Communist Party first secretary in Havana, spoke about the planned activities:

[Begin Lazo recording] We believe the mobilization [words indistinct] by all the mass organizations will prove one of the largest mobilizations ever in Havana. [end recording]

Lazo added that new concepts have given shape to Defense Day, closely linked to the current moment:

[Begin Lazo recording] Our greatest hope about tomorrow, particularly at such a complex and difficult time for the fatherland, is to make this day a great expression of revolutionary support, a great expression of [words indistinct] of our commander in chief, and a true expression of the strength of all the patriots and revolutionaries. [end recording]

Lazo pointed out that organization and mass participation are vital aspects.

Rosales Salutes Military

FL0212191694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Message by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, Politburo member and deputy minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR, on the occasion of the FAR Day on 2 December; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] These days, our Armed Forces proudly celebrate success toward overcoming the special period. This is the perfect opportunity to send a warm salute to all our soldiers, all our militia men and women, and all those who support us in the task of defense in light of that success.

I also urge you to make the Yes-We-Can pledge your starting point for even more successes in 1995, as well as consolidating present levels and guaranteeing not only survival but also development.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities

FL0312023494

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the activities of Cuban Communist Party (PCC) Central Committee Politburo members monitored through 2 December.

Yadira Garcia has said that the sugarcane harvest has not yet recovered satisfactorily. During a provinicial PCC committee plenum, Garcia called for efforts to guarantee quality sugarcane production. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0233 GMT 27 Nov 94)

Yadira Garcia has praised Matanzas oil workers on their efforts to reach their production goal for the year. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 94)

Esteban Lazo has told the closing session of the Cuban Workers Federation's (CTC) provincial committee meeting in Havana that the CTC and the unions are the revolution's arms. He also stressed the importance of cadre training to tackle new labor organization forms, such as the basic cooperative production units, foreign corporations and companies, joint enterprises, shared management, and other modes of foreign investment. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Nov 94)

Esteban Lazo has celebrated national construction workers at the Hemingway Marina. Lazo stressed the importance of efficiency and increased earnings in the construction sector and emphasized the need to improve maintenance on Havana housing units to avoid losses. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 94)

Ulises Rosales Del Toro and Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Isabel Allende received the credentials of the new British ambassador to Cuba. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 94)

Ulises Rosales Del Toro has praised participants in exercises marking the Revolutionary Armed Forces' 38th anniversary in Corralillo Municipality, Villa Clara Province. Rosales said that such exercises demonstrate our country's defense capabilities in the central territory. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Dec 94)

Carlos Lage Davila has attended the opening of the Ciegomontero mineral water bottling plant, in Palmira Municipality, Cienfuegos Province. Over $3 million was invested in the plant, which is a joint Cuban-Spanish venture. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 94)

Julian Rizo Alvarez has participated in a provincial work meeting of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in Camaguey Province. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Nov 94)

Nelson Torres has met sugarcane workers in Havana Province and underscored the importance of increased efficiency during the upcoming sugar harvest. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Dec 94)

Maria De Los Angeles Garcia has attended celebrations marking the 38th anniversary of the uprising against Batista's troops in Santiago de Cuba. (Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 94)

Roberto Robaina and Ricardo Alarcon have met a solidarity group from the Canary Islands at the Havana Convention Center. The delagation pledged to send a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton demanding an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 94)

Results of Farmers' Markets Discussed

FL0212191894

[FBIS Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0302 GMT on 30 November carries its regularly scheduled "Open Agenda" program with host Antonio Resillez and guests Miguel Casas and Emilio Tubao, both vice presidents of the farmers' markets' national work group. The discussion is on the first two months' results of the farmers' markets.

Resillez opens the discussion explaining that Casas and Tubao have many facts and figures to give. He suggests beginning with the total number of farmers' markets in Cuba. Casas replies: "To date, there are 183, of which 21 are in Havana City Province, 19 in Havana Province, and 18 in Camaguey Province." Casas adds that more will be opening in the near future.

Tubao comments on the infrastructure of the farmers' markets and on the fact that they are financially self-sufficient.

Resillez asks Casas and Tubao to give some figures which can explain sales, benefits, taxes collected and any other information on hand about the farmers' markets.

Casas begins by explaining that the figures they have cover sales up to and including Sunday, 27 November. He adds: "A total of 690,000 quintales of products were sold, and 272 million pesos were collected. Vegetables—mostly plantain, casaba, and yams—represented 52 percent of total sales." Casas noted that this information is compiled directly from the producers and product sellers at the markets. Tubao added that in these two months over 21 million pesos in taxes were collected and 5.2 million pesos were collected for services rendered.

Casas gives figures on the sales by production sectors: "The state sector has placed on sale 89,500 quintales of produce. The non-state sector has placed 268,400 quintales of produce on sale. The breakdown of this sector is: Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's], 50,000 quintales; Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives, 69,900 quintales; private farms, 148,200 quintales.

"Percentiles of money collected: The state sector, 18.5 percent; Youth Labor Army farms, 2 percent; state farms, 16.5 percent; non-state sector, 81.5 percent."

Resillez asks which provinces have had good results and which bad. Casas responds: "The top-selling provinces with their sales in percentiles compared to overall national sales are: Havana City Province with 32.3 percent; Santiago de Cuba Province with 8.2 percent; Havana Province with 7.8 percent; Holguin Province with 7.5 percent. Provinces with lesser sales and their percentiles are: Isla de la Juventud [no percentile given]; Cienfuegos Province with 1.9 percent; Pinar del Rio Province with 2.6 percent; Sancti Spiritus Province with 3.8 percent; Matanzas Province with 4.3."

Resillez and Tubao discuss aspects of the farmers' markets related to prices. Tubao states that the non-state sector—the UBPC's, Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative, and private farms—participated with 81.5 percent of total products on sale and with an average sale price of 4.21 pesos. The state farms showed an average sale price of 2 pesos, and were the least expensive of the suppliers-sellers participating in the markets.

Resillez, Casas and Tubao broach the issue of farmers' markets' sales volume compared to the ration books' distribution volume. Tubao emphasized that the 690,000 quintales of products sold would represent only 2.5 pounds worth of products distributed via each ration booklet. He adds: "Therefore, this is a very small volume compared to that distributed through the ration books."

Resillez introduces a recorded interview with Orlando Lugo Fonte, president of the National Association of Small Farmers. Lugo states that the farmers' markets have been fulfilling objectives, as was expected. Lugo adds that during the first week, participation was somewhat slow, but after that the farmers—in great number—took their products to the markets to be sold. Lugo also points out that even though there are still difficulties ahead, he has witnessed how the farmers are readying themselves to participate even more in the farmers' markets. Lugo adds: " We would like to see more farmers taking part. The farmers' markets are a measure implemented by the Revolution."

The recorded interview ends and Resillez states: "The farmers' markets are an alternative not a solution."

Resillez, Casas and Tubao discuss if the farmers' markets, in this short period of time, have already begun to stimulate production. Casas: "During the winter planting campaign 12,858 caballerias of tubers and vegetables will be planted." Casas adds that the winter campaign is expected to be very good.

Resillez and Casas comment that it is too soon to speak of price tendencies within the farmers' markets, but as the supply and demand system dictates, whenever there are larger supplies, prices drop. Casas adds: "During the first few days of October, the average price of pork was 50 to 55 pesos and today in Havana City the average price of pork is 41.88 pesos."

Resillez, Casas, and Tubao comment on the need for the farmers' markets to improve hygiene and cleanliness. Vendors are responsible for the cleanliness of their stalls, as well as the proper presentation of their products. Tubao states that the farmers' markets' administrator is the person responsible for making each and every participant comply with rules and regulations. Resillez points out that inspection and control personnel have detected a few cases where products were paid for in dollars. With reference to this, Casas states: "These markets have not been created to have products paid for in dollars. These markets have been created to trade in pesos, the national currency."

Resillez and his guest comment that to channel part of the benefits which the farmers are obtaining at the farmers' markets, several provinces have opened farmers' shops—shops where the farmers can purchase certain tools and equipment with which to improve and increase their work.

Resillez and Tubao discuss the winter harvest campaign, which is expected to be positive. Tubao adds: "This has brought about the idea of opening several new farmers' markets. This could be—not only in Havana City, but in other provinces, as well."

Resillez thanks Casas and Tubao for their participation and presents the closing segment of the program—the recorded closing statements of Alfredo Jordan, Politburo member, Minister of Agriculture, and president of the Farmers' Markets National Work Group, during a recent meeting of the Farmers' Markets National Work Group: "The farmers' markets have created a positive atmosphere and people are happy. However, those of us who are involved, in depth, with the markets cannot be happy, satisfied, nor content with the results to this point. We know there are difficulties of all types. We must analyze and attack them with a deep sense of auto-criticism. We must not let ourselves be self-indulgent, just because people are happy and there is a little more food. We could start to think that it is true. No, no, no, we are going in the right direction. For this market to become what Cuba needs and what Cuban leadership desires, there is a great deal of work ahead. We can not forget that the main goal of the farmers' markets is to permanently stimulate production. Anything along the way that hinders this goal—which is to use the land, increase production, and increase the land's yield under the supervision of all our organizations—has to be removed and evaluated. In that area is where we require a great deal of initiative. Our rural areas have an infinite ability to produce initiative. We need it all. We must have every bit of Cuba yielding crops. As the Commander said during the last congressional meeting in Santiago de Cuba: Everywhere, except baseball fields and parks—Let's plant everywhere, everywhere."

Report Examines Economic 'Reorganization'

PA0312024994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0934 GMT 30 Nov 94

["Exclusive" report by Cuban economist Silvia Domenech: "Cuba 1994: The Caution-Urgency Paradox"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To exist in 1994, in spite of all predictions, is the most tangible evidence of the main victory Cuba has achieved in the first years of the special period: to have resisted.

To resist was and continues to be a vital factor in the nation's independent and sovereign existence. Resistance is therefore not only related to survival, but also creates the adequate living conditions for a decent life and especially for the economy and the new realities that surround it.

It is meant to support the serious and crucial changes that the fall of the socialist nations provoked in the conditions under which Cuba developed economically and socially until the end of the 1980's.

In only two years (1990 and 1991), our purchasing capacity was drastically reduced by more than half, by losing three quarters of the traditional markets, the fair conditions under which the economic relations developed (preferential prices, soft loans, etc.), our main suppliers, and the source of foreign financing. Suddenly, the relations of economic integration on which the Cuban socio-economic development strategy was based were broken; these had been in existence for more than 30 years with those nations.

These impacts are also influenced by other external factors, related not only to the current complexities of the world scenario, a result of the change in its balance of forces, but also with the disadvantaged place Cuba already had in this world as a result of the U.S. blockade.

Historically, the latter had presented serious obstacles to the nation's entrance into the world economy. Among many of its harming aspects, it has made imports more expensive and has obstructed the exports of Cuban products to the capitalist market. Likewise, it has limited the flow of resources from the international financial and credit organizations. These effects, although they had a negative impact on the economy, were not the determining factors in its course; however, they become stronger after the crumbling of the socialist bloc.

To the above is added the fact that at the beginning of the 1990's the blockade was stepped up. With the approval of the Torricelli Bill in 1992, its terms became tougher, broadening and deepening even more its effects on the Cuban economy, which was facing serious foreign financial problems with freely convertible currency (MLC). This is particularly so in the second half of the 80's when conditions worsened for Cuba in its servicing of the foreign debt. The payments were suspended, reducing even more the possibility of access to the sources of financing from the capitalist world.

All of this resulted in a strong contraction of the nation's economy, undeniably dependent on the foreign sector.

In 1992, the economy appears reduced, in comparison to 1989. There has been a 72-percent reduction in the total value of imports, and its productivity levels have been reduced by 35-40 percent, with industries operating at 20 percent of their capacity.

These recessive results continued in 1993, and what added to the accumulative implications of the downfall were a number of serious weather conditions (the storm of the century, change in the rains, and so on), the presence of an epidemic neuropathy—the combatting of which necessitated large amounts of resources—as well as the fall of prices in the world market of products such as nickel and seafood, important items for the nation to obtain foreign income and whose internal production capacity had already been adversely affected.

The above reflects a 25-percent reduction in the total value of trade, compared to 1992, and industry operating at 15 percent of its capacity, with peak times—such as July and August 1993—when it fell to around 1 percent

Nevertheless, in the practical sense and in terms of action, resisting is not limited to absorbing the blow of uncontrollable foreign factors; this is a necessary, but it is not enough. The action of the forces emerging from the changes that occurred in the international scene, when the status quo was broken, has introduced changes in the economy, taking advantage of its entropic tendencies, by disarticulating the operating conditions of its components.

This has forced Cuba to find ways to adapt to the world—a basic way of resisting. These forms of adaptation go beyond the reordering of economic relations.

Adaptation is linked to the need to rebuild the country's life, especially its economic foundations—foundations that were severely damaged and rooted in support that no longer exists—without renouncing the socialist essence and ideals of the revolution and, therefore, rebuilding the domestic economic relations system based on these needs. Under current conditions, this means an "active resistance," which implies, in addition to survival, economic recovery and a profound reorganization process.

The strategy for the special period was approved in 1991. This strategy includes three basic premises:

Changes in the development concept. When dealing with the supply process, this concept can be defined based on those sectors that handle foreign currency—that is, those sectors in which it is feasible to create a foreign exchange surplus capable of reactivating the rest of the economy and saving it.

Encouraging foreign capital investments as a source of financial and monetary resources to exploit the potential released by strategic changes.

An orderly and fair restriction of economic activities and of the people's consumption levels. These aspects are of a different nature, but they have the same objective: to lessen the negative domestic consequences by averting, as much as possible, abrupt imbalances that could be fatal, because they would create factors leading to social destabilization. Another goal is to assume the consequences of this policy.

Since 1990, but especially in 1993 and in 1994, within the framework of this strategic concept and in line with prevailing circumstances, the government adopted a series of pragmatic actions designed to reach its goals.

These actions included the reorganization of foreign trade; the formation of economic associations with foreign entities (joint enterprises); domestic financial incentives; the general utilization of bicycles as a means of transportation; the use of new technology; the utilization of animal power in agriculture; the legalization of the possession of readily convertible currency; the promulgation of laws and resolutions, including modifications to the Constitution in 1992; the approving of private work; the restructuring of the state's central administrative organizations and their functions; the creation of Basic Cooperative Production Units; and the opening of markets to agricultural and industrial products.

All of these measures have been adopted in response to circumstantial demands in the country's life. The effects of these measures have varied, but all of them, by modifying what had existed before, have promoted transformations in the economy's structure and functioning, as well as in our frame of mind—this last point being not only a result, but also an essential condition of this process.

This adaptation is taking place in an economy that is immersed in a series of changes born out of a rectification process. These changes were generated by domestic forces that emerged out of the tension within society when the role of economic mechanisms gained overpowering influence. These domestic forces exemplified an equilibrium that had been disturbed and were related to the nature and characteristics of the system (the model) that was being implemented.

The current transformations appear, more than anything else, as part of a complex process of change—that is, as a series of transformations that reflect the changes taking place in an arena in which conflicting elements—elements that have different characters and causes—intermingle and interrelate. These elements are:

Those that reflect the effects of the disappearance of the socialist camp and the Soviet Union, and these are direct detonators and factors of the current situation

The results of the tightening and intensification of the U.S. blockade.

The elements that reflect domestic problems which were engendered by deficiencies and confronted through the process of rectifying errors and negative tendencies initiated in 1986 in a national and international context completely different from what exists now.

The elements that have grown out of strategies and politics to face reality and to diminish its inevitable costs—elements that simultaneously demand and imply profound behavioral changes in today's thoughts and actions.

The interaction of these elements gives way to new phenomena and processes which are both good and bad and which can only be understood and discussed from today's vantage point. Among these phenomena and processes we must include the existence of a dual economy; the domestic financial imbalances; the loss of the peso's purchasing power; the diminishing role of salaries to stimulate; the emergence of new forms of properties; the breaking of concepts such as egalitarianism and paternalism, upon which the country's styles and methods are based; and the struggle to achieve efficiency and competitive advantages as essential requirements and objective criteria for the reorganization on which we have embarked.

Given the characteristics already analyzed, and because of them, the country's challenges do not only pertain to rejoining the world economy and to the dimensional, structural, and functional reorganization of the Cuban economy. The changes taking place in the Cuban economy and its reorganization are not taking place within an abstract and ideal framework but within a very sensitive national context.

The economic challenges are part of an extremely complex domestic reality—one in which the economy commingles with the other spheres of society and in which the economic instability the country is currently experiencing becomes a sensitive link. In turn, this factor is highly prone to generate disturbances within Cuba's domestic balance of forces—a balance whose maintenance, however, is a condition for Cuba's existence and continuity.

In other words, it is still essential for Cuba that the critical economic situation it is facing and solutions to it—as a model based on its ideals, as well as on its material and moral machinery—must not create antagonistic positions that would do away with the foundations of the social project, thereby creating sudden imbalances that would exert excessive pressure on the ability to resist and that would erode the levels of stability required in the adaptation process in which we are currently engaged.

Therefore, the practical measures we are required to take must also begin to agree with the progressive and necessary changes that are taking place in other spheres, especially in the social sphere, whose stability is one of the foremost factors supporting the political stability achieved by the Revolution—an undeniable expression emanating from the favorable and united votes cast by the overwhelming majority in past elections. If we fail to maintain the revolution, the economic solutions already under way would become untenable.

How do we explain the need for this balance? At the core, we find the individual that lives, feels, thinks, perceives, values, and acts—an individual responsible for the good and the bad in the country, an individual on whom to count, an individual to transform and who, in turn, will not transform things to counter reality but, rather, base those transformations on reality.

These are the conditions for keeping this balance and the means to overcome its paradoxes, including, especially in the writer's opinion, the one that could be called the "caution-urgency" paradox (in other words, the paradox residing in the necessities derived from the essential order, and those necessities that justify and stem from the new reorganization). These contradictions are intrinsic and constantly determining the rhythm and complexion of the economic changes currently taking place.

This characteristic, in and of itself, is the one that commits the Cuban socialist path to the unavoidable changes demanded by reality in an objective and necessary manner as an expression of the demands for economic restructuring and recovering—a process from which we have already begun to see encouraging signs in 1994.

Roundup of Economic Developments

FL0512031794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Cuban economic developments monitored through 5 December.

A total of 2,051 caballerias of tobacco will be planted in Pinar del Rio Province before 15 January 1995. The current planting program delay affects only 50 caballerias. A total of 580 caballerias of tobacco will be planted by the end of November, with December's goal set at 1,200 caballerias. A total of 84 percent of the land has been prepared using animal traction. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Nov 94)

The total number of oxen in Cuba has increased by 156,000. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Nov 94)

Cubanacan has ended October 1994 with earnings exceeding their goals. Approximately $252 million in revenues are estimated for 1994 and 30-percent growth when compared with the results of 1993. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Nov 94)

Cuba has signed 38 contracts with 14 foreign firms from Canada, Panama, Australia, Venezuela, Italy, and Ghana for the protection, exploration, and exploitation of minerals in an area covering 27,500 sq km of Cuban territory. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Nov 94)

National and provincial heads of markets met on 27 November to discuss achievements, goals, and problems of farmers markets. Over 0.5 million quintales of products have been sold in farmers markets for over 224 million pesos. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 94)

Fishermen on one of the Casilda fishing fleet's boats out of Trinidad Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province, have broken records by capturing over 100 tonnes of fish after a month at sea. The fleet hopes to capture 1,153 tonnes of fish during 1994. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 94)

Modified prices and the elimination of gratuities helped Granma Province collect over 93.5 million pesos between June and October of 1994, 61 percent of this amount collected through cigarette and tobacco sales. Only 41 of the 855 workers cafeterias in the province are not yet able to cover their own expenses, with over half of these situated in Manzanillo Municipality. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 28 Nov 94)

Cuba's economic measures helped Pinar del Rio Province reduce excess currency by 53 million pesos as of June 1994. The amount of money in the public's hands, including that in bank accounts, totalled nearly 821 million pesos by July 1994. Notwithstanding this reduction, in October 1994 the excess currency was 3 million pesos less than in 1993. Between 25 and 30 million pesos are taken out of circulation monthly in the province. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 28 Nov 94)

As part of the cooperation accord signed between Cuba and the Canary Islands Health Council, the council has donated over 24 million pesetas to finance the first phase of the expansion of the Sido Redondo Hospital, in Artemisa Municipality, Havana Province. The project calls for a donation of 72 million pesetas for the next phases, which are to begin next year. A shipment of hospital equipment valued at between 80 and 100 million pesetas is scheduled to arrive in Cuba in February. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Nov 94)

Oil workers in central Cuba have extracted more than 815,000 tonnes of crude oil in 1994 and expect to reach their goal of 918,000 tonnes by year's end. (Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 94)

The Valle de Caonao miscellaneous crops enterprise, in Yaguajay Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province, has begun its potato planting campaign. This enterprise will plant a total of 26 caballerias, which should allow a harvest of 150,000 quintales of potatoes. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Nov 94)

India has won a bid to build a solar energy plant to supply electricity and water to houses and public buildings. India will build this plant in Magdalena, 160 km outside of Santiago de Cuba, with the participation of the Cuban Center for Research on Solar Energy. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Nov 94)

The Tropicana night club accrued $5 million between January and November 1994. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 94)

Barbados

New Ambassador to U.S. Appointed

FL0212205694 Bridgetown CANA in English 1757 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec. 2, CANA—The Barbados government on Friday [2 December] named former Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Courtney Blackman, as Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the Organisation of American States. Rick Craig, a Barbados-born New York banker will be Consul-General at New York and Ben Martinez, a businessman, is taking over as Consul-General at Miami. The appointments are effective from January, 1995.

"These appointments are in keeping with the economic thrust of the Government's foreign policy," a statement from the foreign ministry said.

They bring to six the number of diplomatic appointments announced by the three-month-old Government. Peter Simmons and Herbie Yearwood are going as High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, respectively, to London and Errol Humphrey as Consul-General to Toronto.

Cayman Islands

Cuban Refugees March; Children Plead for Visas

FL0212205794 Bridgetown CANA in English 1514 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Dec. 2, CANA—An estimated 350 Cuban refugee mothers and children staged a peaceful but noisy march through the streets of the capital of this western Caribbean British territory Thursday afternoon. The women said they were looking to gain international attention to their efforts to obtain humanitarian visas to enter the U.S. and to send a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton when he addresses the Summit of the Americas in Miami next weekend.

Chanting "libertad, libertad" (freedom, freedom), the women and children marched the three miles from government's Tent City refugee camp to the steps of the Government administration building. There, several of the children gave speeches imploring U.S. President Clinton to grant humanitarian visas to the elderly, sick and families with small children. One of the marchers, eleven-year-old Yonsy Rodriguez, said there were 269 children in the camp along with 13 chronically ill refugees.

Washington earlier this year changed the policy that allowed Cubans nearly automatic entry as political refugees. Nearly 1,200 Cubans are stuck in the Cayman Islands, living in a tent inside a refugee camp. Repeated attempts by various Cuban-American groups and relatives of the refugees living in the U.S. along with Cayman-United Kingdom government initiatives with the U.S. State Department have failed to obtain any visas for the U.S. or get a change in policy. A delegation from the Cayman and UK governments has twice been to Washington to meet with U.S. government officials to get the Americans to either grant the Cubans visas or take them to U.S.-run camps in Guantanamo and Panama. The Americans have yet to respond to the Cayman-UK requests.

Haiti

Aristide Urges Repression Victims To Lodge Complaints

FL0212233794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is urging the victims of three years of repression under civilian-military rule to lodge complaints with the Justice Department. President Aristide made this call in Creole on 1 December to several thousand people in Les Cayes—the country's fourth largest city—where he has been on an official visit since yesterday morning. He will travel to his hometown of Port-Salut today.

[Begin Aristide recording, in Creole] Can we make the wheels of justice turn? [crowd responds: Yes!]

With [Tropical Storm] Gordon? [crowd responds: No!]

Without violence? [crowd's response indistinct]

We are people. We are civilized people. Where there are civilized people, justice can be served without vengeance or violence. What can be done? It was the case for a long time that investigations that were said to have been led never really took place. I say that it is possible for investigations today to be truly carried out through legal procedures. I call on any of the victims in Les Cayes or Petit-Goave and all Haitian people to lodge complaints. Do not be afraid to lodge a complaint. Go to court and lodge a complaint. If you are not heard or you are looked down upon, say so. Go to court and report the person you saw killing Claudi (Musseau). If you are not heard, say so. [applause] [end recording]

Military Reassignments, Court Appointments Reported

FL0212232494

[FBIS Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1700 GMT and in Creole at 2100 GMT on 2 December report the following dismissals from and reassignments within the Haitian Armed Forces and appointments to the Court of Cassation:

1. The Haitian Armed Forces has dismissed:

Major (Micho) Saint-Fleur
Major Roland Dufreigne
Major Edwin (Florexil)
Major Marc Kernissan
Major Geriles Calix
Lieutenant Bertrand Gonel
Lieutenant Dieudone Faeton

2. The Haitian Armed Forces has reassigned the following:

General Jean-Claude Duperval, former commander in chief, has been appointed military attache in Brazil

Brigadier Henri-Max Mayard has been appointed military attache in Ecuador

Colonel Ebert Valmont, former chief of general staff, has been appointed military attache in Colombia

Colonel Charles Andre has been appointed military attache in Belgium

Colonel Henri-Robert Marc-Charles has been appointed military attache in Bolivia

3. A presidential decree dated 29 November appoints the following attorneys to be judges on the Court of Cassation:

Clausel Desbrosse (president)
Pradel Pean (vice president)
Larouse B. Pierre
Gerald Charles Alerte
Jean B. (Calyme)
Raymond Gille
Raoul (Ainse)
Dumas Desrosier
Raphael Dimanche
Luc Fougere
Alix Germain

Background on Supreme Court President

FL0312151694 Bridgetown CANA in English 2311 GMT 02 Dec 94

[From "Headlines News Summary"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has launched an overhaul of the top ranks of the nation's judicial system.

He also named Clausel Debrosses as president of the Supreme Court. Debrosses, a judge from the western town of Gonaives, replaces Emile Jonassaint, the former head of the court, who was installed as Haiti's de facto president in May by the then-ruling military regime. Jonassaint quietly left the presidential palace shortly before Aristide, the popularly elected president ousted in a September 1991 coup, returned to power on October 15th.

Debrosses is best known for being the only judge to support a negotiated peace accord between Aristide and the military that would have led to the ousted leader's return in February 1992. At the time all 11 other judges said the pact, known as the Washington Accord, violated the country's 1987 constitution. The military subsequently reneged on the deal and Aristide remained in exile until his return late this year.

Officers on New Police Force Arrive From Guantanamo

FL0212232594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Defense Ministry reports that Operation Uphold Democracy is entering its second stage, in compliance with a presidential decree and with the objective of securing lives and property. Defense Minister Retired General Wilton Lherisson recently inspected the base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He has reported that officers on the new Haitian police force arrived in Haiti on 2 December after training at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay. He said that they intend to serve the nation once they complete proficiency training at Camp Lamentin, in Carrefour. The defense minister also announced that the police college and academy provided for in the Constitution and established on President Aristide's orders will open early next year.

Aristide Forms Economic Growth Commission

FL0212235694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A presidential commission on economic growth and modernization has been formed to review not only the government's economic measures and all related proposals but also the efforts of the various permanent mixed committees to promote investment, the mixed consultative committee on textiles, and the national committee on facilitating foreign trade.

The commission has also been tasked with recommending to the president and the government measures that are likely to help those mixed committees function once again and to promote investment and development.

The commission is also expected to work with the tripartite consultative and arbitration committee and to express all adequate recommendations.

The commission will also help the government carry out the economic and social reconstruction plans presented in Paris.

The commission is due to recommend legal and/or statutory economic measures in an effort to modernize the country's economic and financial structures and, thus, improve the climate for national investment.

A presidential decree dated 30 November established the commission. Industrialist Jean-Edouard Baker will chair the commission for one year. The commission is composed of the following private sector representatives: Acra Norman, Auguste Ralph, Baker Jean Edouard, Baussan Edouard, (Braun) F. Carl, Beida (Clement), Buteau Jean-Maurice, Buteau Richard, Coupet Gladys, Deschamps Jacques, Gardere Tierry, Hudicourt-Ewald Chantal, Lebrun Ralph, Meus Gregory, and Samy Dureck. The prime minister will be a permanent observer, with seven government and public administration officials—including the Central Bank governor and the economic, commerce, planning, public works, agriculture, and social affairs ministers—also serving as members.

Jean-Edouard Baker has been appointed president of the commission, which has one year to fulfill its duties. This deadline can be extended if need be. The commission will work out the regulations under which it will run.

Congress Asks Zedillo To Oppose Proposition 187 at Summit

PA0212133794 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 14

[Article by Guadalupe Baez and Humberto Rios Navarrete]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Congress is working to defend the human and labor rights of fellow Mexicans living in the United States and of immigrants who face racism. It has decided to suspend Mexican-U.S. interlegislative meetings until the parties agree on the representation of both Congresses and the agenda to be discussed.

Legislators from various parties and from both congressional chambers held a meeting and issued a declaration urging Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon to oppose Proposition 187, which "violates the human rights of our fellow Mexicans," at the hemispheric summit from 9 to 11 December.

In the declaration, members of PAN [National Action Party], PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] urge Mexicans—particularly those residing in border cities—to be on the lookout for the results of Proposition 187 and to give support and solidarity to fellow nationals in the trying situation they will face.

They also urge the Mexican Government to exercise "its utmost assertiveness and efficiency" in diplomatic endeavors to defend the human rights of Mexicans residing in California and to expose every aggression and human rights violation against Mexicans in the United States.

The deputies and senators expressed "their strongest rejection" of Proposition 187 and their outrage and objection vis-a-vis the mistreatment and discrimination Mexicans must endure.

As for Proposition 187, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Chamber of Deputies Special Committee reiterated in the document that within the framework of respect for the principle of nonintervention and international law, "all governments must defend the human rights of their citizens, regardless of their country of residence."

As a result, they agreed that "the approval of Proposition 187 affects the human rights of thousands of Mexicans living in the United States."

PRD legislator Cuauhtemoc Sandoval said that the first forum will be held in Tijuana soon. Among the invited groups are nongovernmental organizations, bar associations, state governments, and Mexican-U.S. organizations.

Sandoval said "the Mexican Congress is concerned that Proposition 187 could be extended to other states in the United States." He said that regardless of differences of opinion about the immigration problem, all Mexicans must now unite to reject the California governor's initiative.

Sandoval said that on behalf of the PRD he had asked Fernando Solana to suspend the interlegislative meetings between the countries because they are "empty and unequal." The former foreign secretary accepted a temporary suspension because he recognized the poor results of such meetings as well as the inequitable representation the nations have designated for the meetings.

Finally, the PRD legislator said that only in the case of an agreement between both Congresses could such meetings be resumed, otherwise they should remain suspended.

In addition, he said there should be an overall discussion of the immigration problem because our border with the United States is the biggest one where such conflicts are taking place.

Finally, he asked the authorities to adopt policies to redefine the work done by Mexican consulates in the United States.

During a meeting held in the building next to the Senate, Fernando Solana, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, accepted the PRD's suggestion to suspend the interlegislative meetings, at least temporarily, because so far they have proven to be unproductive, according to PRD Deputy Cuauhtemoc Sandoval.

During the meeting, the legislators agreed to meet with California congressmen to ask them to annul Proposition 187 and to resort to international organizations to prevent the xenophobia from spreading to other areas of the neighboring country.

Likewise, they agreed that a process should be opened to nullify Governor Pete Wilson's initiative as well as to organize forums in bordering states with various groups to find solutions to the problem and create an awareness among the population.

Activities of Foreign Leaders in Mexico Detailed

Views of Bolivian President

PY0212162194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2258 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 1 Dec (EFE)—Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada today said that his country hopes NAFTA will bring benefits to all Latin American countries. Sanchez de Lozada, who came here to attend Ernesto Zedillo's inaguuration, said: "When Mexico joined NAFTA, it became clear to us that the 19th century belonged in the past, that we are living in a different world, and that we must all be there together."

The Bolivian president added that Bolivia is today what Mexico was like 50 years ago, and that Mexico is considered to be a leader in Latin America because of its longstanding position in defense of the right to self-determination.

Sanchez de Lozada described Zedillo's inaugural speech as "judicious, open, and concise." He added that the speech is significant not only for Mexico but for the entire world in terms of its having focused on problems affecting the entire region, such as corruption and poverty. Sanchez de Lozada added: "At times I thought that was one of my speeches because we agree on many things. Bolivia and Mexico are very similar and must act together."

Sanchez de Lozada expressed regret at the fact that Cuba will not be represented at the Summit of the Americas. Although contending that the Cuban Government should have been represented at the summit, he noted that "the time has come for democracy to reach the island." He noted, however, that Bolivian relations with Cuba are based on a profound respect.

He described Proposition 187, which restricts public services to undocumented aliens, as a delicate matter because it is easy to justify repression against immigrants and one should not overlook the fact that they also make contributions to the U.S. economy.

Chile's Frei Meets Castro

PY0212132194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After his inauguration today, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo promised to implement a true democratic opening. Chilean President Eduardo Frei, who, along with other heads of state, attended the Mexican inauguration ceremony, held a meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The following is a report from Mexico by reporter Jose Miguel Alfaro:

[Begin recording] [Alfaro] A dozen heads of state and government, in addition to representatives from another 50 countries, attended the inauguration ceremony in Mexico.

Under strict security measures, the foreign dignitaries arrived early at the legislative building. Chilean President Eduardo Frei, escorted by Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza and Chilean Ambassador Carlos Portales, arrived at the site one hour before the start of the inauguration ceremony. [passage omitted]

After stating that the rotation of power is one of the principles of democracy, President Frei stressed the similarities between Chilean policy and the announcements made by Zedillo in his inaugural address.

[Frei, in progress] ...and particularly for us, to listen to a speech which to a large extent makes proposals similar to those we have been promoting. This shows that the problems we are facing today are universal problems, and that Latin America is facing common problems. I have heard President Zedillo talk about fighting poverty, education, the modernization of the courts, infrastructure, and corruption. All of these are subjects that are also being broached in Chile. I would like to say that to a large extent I share his points of view. Moreover, I believe he has made a contribution to Mexican democracy because he has made important announcements to perfect the election process and he has implemented substantial changes in the way things have been done here in Mexico.

[Alfaro] During the inauguration ceremony, Mexican opposition members rallied near the Mexican Revolution monument, where serious clashes with the riot police ensued.

In another sector of Mexico City, President Eduardo Frei held a round of negotiations with the heads of state attending the Mexican inauguration ceremony. One of these meetings was with Commander Fidel Castro, who declined to comment on the issues discussed during the meeting.

[First unidentified reporter] Did you discuss an eventual democratic opening in Cuba?

[Castro] What opening are you talking about, young man? There has never been so much democracy or more political changes implemented in these past 30 years. You have to study all this. This is why someone should open a university course on this or visit Cuba to learn about the real situation.

[Second unidentified reporter] Was an eventual democratic opening in Cuba discussed during this meeting?

[Frei] No, not specifically because it only lasted about 20 minutes. We have our ideas and opinions in this regard, but we can continue working. I believe that bilateral ties are possible. There are important ties between our two countries. There are important Chilean investments in Cuba and this allows us to have fluid ties.

[Alfaro] President Eduardo Frei added that the resumption of Chilean-Cuban diplomatic ties has not been discussed and that the issue is not under study. [end recording]

Menem Talks With Gore, Zedillo

PY0212145194 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0308 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 1 Dec (TELAM-SNI)—Tonight in this city, President Carlos Menem and U.S. Vice President Al Gore evaluated aspects of the agenda of the Summit of the Americas that will take place in Miami next week.

After an unexpected audience and meeting with Ernesto Zedillo, the brand new president of Mexico, Menem returned to Argentina, where he will arrive at 0800 [1100 GMT] on 2 December.

The agenda of the Summit of the Americas will include, among other issues, bilateral relations and the information super highway that "Vice President Gore aired some months ago in Buenos Aires," Menem said at the end of the meeting, which lasted for 10 minutes.

Government sources consulted by TELAM stressed that Menem and Gore agreed upon points related to the U.S. Government project that will establish a free trade zone "from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego."

In one of his last activities in this city, Menem met with Zedillo; prior to this meeting, he met with members of the Argentine community in Mexico.

A source revealed that in that meeting, Menem stressed that during the last months of his presidency he will attack the problems of unemployment and poverty, which he termed "scourges that flay humanity."

The head of state began his return trip at 2040 local time (2340 Argentine time), and he is scheduled to arrive at the Jorge Newbery Airport at 0800.

Castro 'Patient' in Listening to Menem

PY0212224694 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 11

[Report on interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by CLARIN special correspondent Walter Curia in Mexico City on 1 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 December Cuban President Fidel Castro told the newspaper CLARIN that "I am a most patient man. I've got the patience of Job in listening to Argentine President Carlos Menem."

Castro alluded to the endurance of the biblical figure in reply to a question about Menem's insistence on the issue of Cuba. Castro graciously agreed, with his proverbial humor, to grant an interview to CLARIN following the Mexican president's inauguration, despite the fact that his bodyguards tried to prevent it at all costs.

[Castro] "I have not yet been able to talk with your president for a single moment. I hope I will be able to greet him later in the day."

[Curia] "On 1 December Menem said that he would once again request the democratization of Cuba."

[Castro] "Well, he always says that. That is just like him. I have already said that sometimes he does not know what he wants."

[Curia] "He answered that by saying that he does know what he wants: 'Freedom and respect for human rights in Cuba.'"

[Castro] (Laughs.) "Cuba is the country that respects human rights the most, and has worked the most for human welfare in the hemisphere. All the rest is just the doings of the United States."

[Curia] "Are you tired of having to answer Menem's remarks?"

[Castro] "As I have just told you, I am a patient person like you journalists, who have a lot of patience in listening to your president."

The dialectical confrontation between Menem and Castro has already become a classic. It belongs to the anecdotal part of every Ibero-American presidential meeting. Life goes back to normal after the exchanges, as happened yesterday.

The Argentine delegation requested, and apparently managed to secure, a seat for Menem next to Castro at a luncheon Mexico City Mayor Manuel Aguilera gave in honor of the special guests who attended the inauguration. There Menem and Castro finally greeted each other.

Menem had also told a group of Mexican reporters in the morning that Argentina "has good relations with Cuba." While demanding the democratization of Cuba, the Argentine president said that "I am not trying to ingratiate myself with the United States" by adopting this position.

Spain's Gonzalez: Cuban Blockade Unacceptable

PA0312040594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 16

[Report by David Aponte, Jesus Aranda, and Victor Cardoso]

[FBIS Translated Text] Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish chief of state, interceded for Cuba during a private meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore and requested that the commercial blockade against Havana be ended.

After a private meeting with Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers, Gonzalez said Washington's blockade is "unacceptable, ineffectual, and does not resolve the bilateral problem."

The three personalities held bilateral meetings at a hotel located in Paseo de la Reforma in the afternoon. The three spoke about issues of common interest, but the issue of the commercial blockade against Cuba permeated the meetings.

Gonzalez and Castro spoke without a prearranged agenda on the 10th floor of the hotel. They talked in the closed-door meeting about the process of economic reforms in Cuba.

Gonzalez told the Spanish media after their meeting: "We are following this process closely and cooperating with the reforms. We have noticed some advancement." He even mentioned Fidel Castro had promised to continue with the economic reforms.

The Spanish reporters asked about political reforms in Havana. The head of the Spanish government replied: "He already knows about this issue. I believe the process of integration is fundamental for Cuba." Castro is convinced integration is the path for Cuba's return to the hemisphere, he added.

Regarding the commercial blockade against the island, Gonzalez said there has been a "spectacular" change in the U.S. media in favor of modifying the policy of the commercial blockade against Cuba.

This situation "would introduce a new type of relations" that must still be established. We will "surely" talk about this issue with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, he added. Gonzalez went later on to the hotel's 42d floor, which was full of U.S. Secret Service personnel, to talk with Gore.

The presidents and chiefs of state who attended Ernesto Zedillo's inaugural ceremony held bilateral meetings with representatives of political parties and talked with the White House's representative after the official ceremony ended.

They were in the same place, and Gore, Castro, and Carlos Saul Menem did not even look at each other. A Cuban diplomat said, a bit ironically, there would be no meeting between those personalities. "Nothing with Gore or with Menem."

Cuban reporters got the Argentine president into a tight spot in the same place when he contradictorily argued that the commercial blockade against Havana was an issue that concerned only the United States but that democracy in Cuba was an issue that concerned all. A Cuban reporter told him the issue of democracy in Cuba concerned only the Cubans. The Argentine president did not reply to this comment.

When he arrived at the hotel, President Fidel Castro talked about the speech given by the new Mexican president. "I believe it was gracious and very balanced. He broached issues which, I understand, are of greater interest to the people, and he was precise and concrete." How did you find his position of nonviolence in Chiapas? I believe it is wonderful that he does not want violence. I understood him to mean he wants to resolve problems in a peaceful and negotiated manner, and this point is, undoubtedly, the solution. All the presidents believe the Miami summit will be on Cuba, a reporter said. Castro replied: If we are so important, we will feel honored.

Castro met later on with OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres, and Chilean President Eduardo Frei according to diplomatic sources.

The Cuban president received the visits of Porfirio Munoz Ledo, the national president of the Mexican Party of the Democratic Revolution, and attended an invitation of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs (CEMAI), which is interested in investing and furthering commercial activities with the island, the sources added.

Only Sanchez de Lozada and Figures agreed to talk to reporters about their meeting with Fidel Castro.

The Bolivian president was more explicit when he talked about the issues he discussed with Castro. He said: "I believe that first there cannot be embargoes. There has to be an opening. It takes two to tango, and I believe it is very important that the community find a way to open a dialogue at least. Talking leads to understanding."

Figueres said his country and Havana had reached an agreement to open a small representation office to handle issues of a bilateral nature, but he considered it is not necessary to go to another phase in their bilateral relations for the time being.

Zedillo Advocates Stronger Ties With Nations

PA0212193694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the dinner President Ernesto Zedillo hosted tonight for the presidents who attended his inauguration, he confirmed the unchangeable principles of Mexican foreign policy, reiterated Mexico's unyielding resolve to intensify its friendship and cooperation with nations, and said that respect, dialogue, cooperation, and exchange are the signs of the next century that Mexico is going to promote.

[Begin Zedillo recording] The transfer of executive power in Mexico entails political renewal within the framework of the law; it raises hopes and renews the desire for change toward harmony and progress, and fosters the democratic courage to achieve change with stability.

Our history and the principles therein, which we have acquired and strengthened, have made Mexico a nation with a profound desire for peace. Our country is proud of its sovereignty and it is permanently open to exchanges with other cultures and economies, as long as these exchanges are based on respect and equality.

We are a great nation that is committed to its own development project, but is always prepared to promote abroad the harmony and cooperation it wants to prevail in the international sphere. [end recording]

Colombian President Ernesto Samper spoke on behalf of the visiting presidents.

Foreign Secretary Outlines Priorities

PA0312180794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Report by Rocio Correa; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Scarcely 10 to 15 minutes ago, Mexico's new Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Angel Gurria was sworn in. In a brief speech, the new foreign secretary defined the Zedillo administration's foreign policy, the main goal of which is to defend national sovereignty, promote national interests worldwide, participate more actively in important international trends and decisions, and strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation with all the members of the international community.

It must be especially underscored that, according to Gurria, Mexico's main pledge—which Zedillo has passed onto him—is to struggle for the defense of the human and labor rights of fellow Mexicans living abroad.

[Begin Gurria recording] At his inauguration, President Ernesto Zedillo said that the defense and protection of Mexicans abroad is his administration's priority. The Foreign Secretariat will do everything within its power to fully execute the president's instructions, seeking at all times to defend the human and labor rights of our fellow Mexicans. [end recording]

In addition to underscoring this Mexican Government policy, Gurria said that Mexico's relations with its North American trade partners will become even closer. He said that Mexico will also establish closer relations with Latin America, consolidate its ties with Europe, increase its involvement in the development of the Asia-Pacific basin, and redouble efforts to broaden its opportunities in and relations with the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Domestic Reactions to Zedillo's Inauguration

PA0312130594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 12

[Report by Juana M. Nava, Manuel Enriquez, Carlos A. Gutierrez, Gerardo Rico, Angel Amador, and Antonio Hersa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the business sector in Nuevo Leon pointed out that Ernesto Zedillo discussed difficult issues he will have to resolve during his administration, such as the Chiapas case and the unsolved political assassinations. They also stressed that he omitted making any reference to the slaying of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo.

In front of the government palace in Veracruz, some 20 members of the Democratic National Convention burned in effigy what they called the "imposition" of the new president. The effigy comprised a papier-mache head resembling that of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari attached to the body of an octopus.

Leaders of the organization condemned the "electoral fraud" that was plotted even before 21 August—the date of the federal elections that were won by Zedillo—and called for the removal of the Mexican National Army from Chiapas.

In Aguascalientes, members of several nongovernmental organizations demonstrated at the Plaza de la Patria to protest the assumption of power "by another illegitimate president," and they put up some 80 posters along the Zocalo with various slogans denouncing the new president.

Business leaders from the state and represented by the Business Coordinating Council, meanwhile, voiced support for Zedillo, saying his speech "inspires trust and certainty" in Mexico's future. Rogelio Noriega, president of the organization, stressed the new president's proposal to resolve the country's problems through unity and consensus.

Alfredo Reyes, leader of Coparmex [Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic] in Aguascalientes, emphasized the need to resolve the security problems Mexicans currently face. As for the appointment of Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza to the cabinet, he said: "It is time to reveal the truth," and if he has any responsibility in the assassination of Ruiz Massieu, "it must be cleared up."

Martin Islas Estrada, leader of the National Action Party in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, voiced his rejection for the appointment of Pichardo Pagaza as energy secretary, arguing that such action tarnishes the opening and pluralism promised by the new government in various areas.

In Nuevo Leon, Marcelo Canales Clariond, president of the National Foreign Trade Council, stated that Zedillo's speech made him feel optimistic about Mexico's future, because "he made a good review of the country's problems and discussed those topics that most concern Mexicans."

Juan Ignacio Duran, leader of the Institutional Civic Council, noted that Zedillo made it clear that he will follow the macroeconomic course established by the previous administration. Businessmen from Nuevo Leon, however, stressed the fact that the slaying of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo was omitted from the presidential speech.

In this regard, Jose Guadalupe Martin Rabago, Guadalajara's auxiliary bishop, said Zedillo's speech revives [as published] the hope of getting to the bottom of the cardinal's slaying. This is why the Catholic Church will closely follow any actions new Attorney General Fernando Antonio Lozano adopts in this regard.

Meanwhile, Jalisco Attorney General Leobardo Larios Guzman rejected the clergy's accusations that the case "was disregarded," adding, "the case has been cleared up, and all there is left to do is arrest more people who were there on the day of the crime."

Jorge Hiriart Estrada, leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution in Zacatecas, pointed out that Zedillo's proposals "sound good in a speech," but the key will be to move from theory to practice to enable

Mexico "to become a country of laws, where arbitrary appointments, impunity, and schemes have no place."

In Mexicali, Baja California, where Ernesto Zedillo attended grade school and high school, people celebrated his presidential inauguration with fireworks.

Coparmex Hails Zedillo's Inaugural Speech

PA0512034494 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 40

[Report by Leticia Rodriguez Lopez]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is encouraging to see President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon accept the need to create jobs through sustained growth, investment, and productivity; to provide support for small and medium-sized enterprises; and to resolve problems such as poverty, justice, and centralism, according to the Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic (Coparmex).

Coparmex added, however, that this will not be possible if society does not continue to participate actively, decisively, and by making suggestions.

Insisting on the need to establish a broad concerted effort within society, Coparmex called "promising" the speech delivered by the president at his inauguration, because he endorsed the demands of society to make progress in resolving pending issues concerning the country's modernization.

In addition, Coparmex noted the president expressed his determination to reduce the "cost-country" [costo-pais] with better regulations, a simple and worthwhile tax system, a better system of justice, increased judicial and public security, the elimination of centralism, and a commitment to guarantee the de jure state.

Coparmex said the Mexican president's speech responded to the people's expectations to continue down the path toward democratization, the demand to get to the bottom of the political murders, the pursuit of justice, and the fight against drug trafficking.

Zedillo Ponce de Leon gave poverty the importance it deserves, seeking to attack its root causes. He also took on the fundamental pledge of making education an indisputable priority, to enable "us to continue to insist on the need for a broad concerted effort within society."

Coparmex proposed 10 points to fight poverty in Mexico, among which it highlighted the problem of excessive fiscal distortions and burdens that inhibit the creation of jobs.

In outlining a course of action, Coparmex mentioned the need to strengthen the participation of the business sector in social policy matters, to modernize Social Security to make it more efficient and less costly, and to update the Federal Labor Law to meet the challenges of increased competition.

According to Coparmex, it is also important to guide fiscal policy toward developing infrastructure, creating efficient public services, modernizing the government's bureaucratic apparatus, and creating more and better systems of informal education.

Coparmex said authorities must promote an effective decentralization policy aimed at strengthening the municipalities. It concluded by saying authorities must incorporate values on work, productivity, solidarity, and integrated development into the education system, as well as to create more training alternatives for work following high school.

Parties State Positions Toward Zedillo Administration

PA0212203694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to the ceremony in which Mr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon took oath as constitutional president of the United Mexican States, legislators from the four parties represented at Congress established their political positions toward the new administration. Views were expressed by Marcos Cruz Martinez of the Workers Party of Mexico [PT], Hector Sanchez Lopez of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], Gabriel Jimenez Remos of the National Action Party [PAN], and Rosario Guerra of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI].

[Begin recording] [Cruz Martinez] We need a new social pact based on political agreements, and dialogue between the political forces should be its main instrument.

[Sanchez Lopez] I must clearly establish that we have initiated dialogue with Ernesto Zedillo as a gesture of the PRD's political resolve. We want to progress toward the democratic transformation that Mexico needs, without mortgaging, under any circumstance, our unyielding decision to struggle and achieve a transition to democracy.

[Jimenez Remos] The next president of the republic must also accept the country's demands that he limit his powers and favor the creation of the juridical-political conditions to eliminate the supraconstitutional powers currently conferred upon the institution of the Presidency of the Republic.

[Guerra] We are creating the conditions for national dialogue in order to establish a consensus and resolve the country's biggest problems. Through dialogue we will confirm the efficiency of pluralism and acknowledge the law. [end recording]

Zedillo Addresses PRD, Supports Dialogue in Chiapas

PA0212201894 Mexico City REFORMA in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 12A

[Article by Miguel Angel Juarez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ernesto Zedillo, president-elect of Mexico, told the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] legislators with whom he met on Monday that for no reason and under no circumstances would he order the Mexican Army to intervene in Chiapas.

PRD Deputy Ramon Sosamontes quoted what Zedillo said at the meeting.

"Under no circumstances will I order a military intervention to solve the problem. The dialogue to find a peaceful solution for all Chiapas residents shall have top priority; that is, a dialogue not to satisfy public expectations but to reach agreements among society as a whole," Zedillo said.

Sosamontes also said he would not apply the U.S. formulas of the two-party political system but would seek the plurality of all political forces and parties in the nation.

"I will not allow the extermination or persecution of any idea, be it of the PRD or any other group," Zedillo noted.

He told them new political reforms were necessary.

"We are still not satisfied. We need to agree on a definitive electoral reform to resolve pending matters.

"A fundamental reform of the judicial system is also required because the state of law has been weakened. Likewise, social reforms are needed to combat extreme poverty, and reform is required to guarantee federalism," he told them.

Zedillo Comments on Role of Armed Forces

PA0512010294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2137 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Armed Forces uphold peace and serve as the primary defenders of national sovereignty, because they protect the freedom of Mexicans and their future, according to President Ernesto Zedillo.

During a breakfast in his honor as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Zedillo pointed out that these institutions are and will be defenders of the country's peace and sovereignty. He said: "You are and will be an army of peace, as well as an army for peace, and I will direct all of my efforts at guaranteeing this."

Accompanied by members of his cabinet, Zedillo said that beginning on the day he took office as president of the republic, he began working to fulfill his responsibility of commanding the Armed Forces, adding that he will always work to safeguard the sovereignty, territory, and the good interests of Mexico.

During the breakfast at the Mexican Military Heroes School, he pointed out that we Mexicans "want to promote the well-being our families deserve, and this requires the prevalence of peace and tranquillity, unity within an atmosphere of plurality, and clear communication concerning our goals."

Zedillo added: "In this new phase inaugurated by my government, the patriotism of the Armed Forces will be essential, as always."

He also reaffirmed his commitment to raise the level of professionalism and the quality of military education. "We should ensure that the Armed Forces have sufficient means to fulfill their great responsibilities," Zedillo added.

He promised to improve the capabilities and efficiency of the Armed Forces to ensure that they "continue to serve the people with honor, reliability, and a sense of commitment, and also to pay special attention to maintaining and increasing the very high morale of the officers and troops."

Zedillo added that every day members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force carry out activities that are increasingly great and complex, because they seek peace, harmony, and the well-being of Mexicans.

PRD Leaders Deny Party's Involvement in Recent Clashes

PA0312201894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Escobedo; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have more information regarding the unfortunate incident that took place yesterday on Reforma and Juarez Avenues. At the Government Secretariat, the leadership of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] and its Senate faction have denied that their party was involved in the violence that erupted on Thursday between Mexico City police and a group of agitators. Good evening, Juan Carlos.

[Escobedo] Good evening. In effect, the Government Secretariat today released a brief, one-paragraph communique stating that according to the investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Office in Mexico City, the group that attacked the policemen has been identified. According to the communique, there is no evidence that the PRD participated in the disturbances; it underscores that the investigation will continue and that the general public will be kept informed.

Meanwhile, PRD leader Porfirio Munoz Ledo said that PRD members in Tabasco did not yield to the provocation. The PRD, he said, does not advocate violence as some people would have the public believe. Similar comments were made by Hector Sanchez, the PRD's parliamentary coordinator at the Senate. Sanchez said that it is worrisome that this type of provocation should take place just when his party is opening up to dialogue.

[Begin Sanchez recording] The government [words indistinct], portraying our party as violent and stubborn which, in fact, is not the case. It is clear to us that the attack was probably staged by a group of agitators, and that as the party opens up to dialogue, these people will continue portraying the image they believe the party should have. [end recording]

PRD leaders and legislators demanded a thorough investigation of the incident and the full application of the law.

Government Secretariat Issues Bulletin on Recent Clashes

PA0312175694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 Dec 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government Secretariat issued a bulletin related to the incidents that took place yesterday on Reforma Avenue and Juarez Street.

The bulletin points out that an investigation launched by the federal district's Office of the Attorney General has been able to fully identify the group of protesters who attacked the police for nearly one hour.

In addition, the investigation findings stress that so far, there is no evidence that may lead to believe that the Party of the Democratic Revolution PRD may have been involved in the incidents.

The investigation will continue and the public will be kept abreast of all developments.

Chiapas Indians Protest Zedillo's Inauguration

PA0412221894 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 39

[Report by Jose Gil Olmedo and Elio Henriquez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuxulha, Ocosingo Municipality, Chiapas, 1 Dec—Approximately 2,000 Indians representing five municipalities protested President Ernesto Zedillos' inaugural ceremony that took place this morning, as well as the coming 8 December swearing-in of Governor-elect Eduardo Robledo Rincon. During the morning hours, the Indians also blocked the intersection of the highway linking Altamirano and Ocosingo for more than five hours while military aircraft constantly overflew the area.

Early this morning, hundreds of ranchers and small land owners arrived to Ocosingo's central plaza to "prevent the Indians from taking over the town council." The ranchers and land owners, most of whom were carrying high-powered weapons, indicated they were prepared to defend themselves. Peasants who were attempting to withdraw from the area were detained by the ranchers.

Meanwhile, Altamirano residents said military patrols have been increasing over the past few days, and they also mentioned the frequency of morning and nightime overflights by military aircraft.

During the peaceful protest, the Ocosingo Coffee Growers Organization (ORCAO), Tzoman ("Unity" in the Tojolabal Indian language), Three Knots [Tres Nudos], Yatichilbe, and the Tojolabal Peoples Union [Union de Pueblos Tojolabales], delivered a document in which they explained their reasons for rejecting Zedillo and Robledo Rincon. According to ORCAO, "they do not represent the Mexican people's interests, and much less those of the forgotten, forsaken, and humiliated regions in which the Indian people live."

From 0800 onward, Tzeltal, Tzotzil, and Tojolabal Indians proceeded to block the highway and only allowed traffic to resume at 1400. Because of death threats, several of the protesting Indians have abstained from crossing military checkpoints over the past 11 months, because they were erected in January following the appearance of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN].

During a rally that took place along the highway, they announced that a larger group of Indians was preparing to mobilize near Tuxtla Gutierrez as of Saturday, 3 December, to prevent Eduardo Robledo Rincon of the PRI [Institutional Democratic Party] to be sworn in on 8 December.

ORCAO leader Juan Vazquez Lopez reaffirmed that they opposed "Zedillo's imposition, because he cannot be president of people who did not vote for him, least of all in Chiapas."

The document jointly signed by the five organizations notes: "Today, once again, we are witnessing the imposition of another president by those seeking to confound us. They are also seeking to get us to forget that those who govern today are responsible for the deprivation, injustices, human rights violations, and the 1 January 1994 armed uprising by the EZLN."

The Indians demanded respect for regional autonomy, Indian social organizations, free self-determination by Indian groups, a transitional government, and a Constituent Congress that will prepare a new Constitution.

Regarding the drafting of the declaration on autonomous regions, Vazquez Lopez announced that 180 delegates who are members of the "parliamentarian councils" will meet on 3 and 4 December to agree on a proposal to create the State Indigenous Parliamentarian Council in San Cristobal de las Casas on 15 December.

Vazquez Lopez announced that, during the night, after the meeting and the occupation of the military checkpoints ended, six members of the organization were arrested: Carlos and Gustavo Dominguez, Juan and Jacinto Mendez, Pedro Cruz, and an unidentified person. All of them were from Sibaca, Ocosingo Municipality. Late into the night they were still detained without any justification.

Incoming Chiapas Governor Urged To Continue Peace Process

PA0412230894 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 13

[Report by Betzy Villarreal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, 30 Nov—Dialogue and negotiation will prevail as the means to attain peace in Chiapas, Governor Javier Lopez said here today at a meeting with executive representatives for peace agreements [vocales ejecutivos para los compromisos de paz] in this state.

Lopez said the new administration should take over the work carried out this year in favor of peace in an effort to attain peace and reconciliation. He added that immediate and positive results were obtained this year, despite some complications in the peace process.

Meanwhile, Jose Antonio Molina Farro, executive representative for peace agreements in Chiapas, said his organization will need approximately 1.698 billion new pesos to carry out its work in Los Altos and the state's jungle and border regions.

Lopez Moreno Recognizes Mexican Army's Loyalty

Governor Javier Lopez Moreno today recognized the Mexican Army's steadfast loyalty to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, its faithfulness, and commitment to the people's highest interests.

At a meeting with the commanders of the 7th Military Zone headed by Miguel Angel Godinez Bravo, Lopez Moreno stressed that the cooperation between the military forces and civilian society has been fruitful. He also recognized the Mexican Army's contributions to peace in Chiapas.

Godinez Bravo stressed that Lopez Moreno's dedication, his frequent tours of the state, and his extended dialogue with all political and social groups helped to maintain the truce.

"The waters did not overflow. You complied with your duty and your administration has ended without anything serious happening in Chiapas," Godinez Bravo said to Lopez Moreno.

Avendano Asks PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] National Leadership

Not To Meddle in Local Conflict

In Tapachula, Amado Avendano Figueroa, former PRD candidate for governor in Chiapas, asked his party's national leadership "not to meddle in Chiapas, because the conflict must be resolved by the people of Chiapas."

He added that in Chiapas today all political parties are ignoring their leaders, and, therefore, any attempt to take part in the negotiations to end the conflict would prove ineffective.

At a news conference, Avendano Figueroa ruled out the possibility that the National Mediation Commission will obtain better results in attaining peace in the state.

Avendano Figueroa also said PRD groups in Palenque, Las Margaritas, and along the coast are planning demonstrations during the inauguration of Chiapas Governor-elect Eduardo Robledo Rincon on 8 December.

Chiapas Governor-Elect Moves To End Crisis

PA0412043994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1649 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Chiapas Governor-elect Eduardo Robledo Rincon and opposition leader Amado Avendano have expressed confidence in the new Mexican Government's willingness to resolve the armed conflict and post-electoral crisis in the state.

Robledo Rincon, who is scheduled take office as governor next Thursday, said his government will give priority to the definitive consolidation of peace in Chiapas, where on 1 January an armed group emerged to press for Indian demands.

Top priority will be given to discussions pertaining to the agrarian conflict in Chiapas—talks that are scheduled to begin next Thursday—the governor-elect announced in reference to the dispute between land owners and peasants and Indians who have occupied properties.

Robledo Rincon asserted there is "great political willingness" on behalf of the new federal government to arrive at a political and peaceful solution to the armed conflict, as expressed by President Ernesto Zedillo at his inauguration on Thursday.

The Zapatist National Liberation Army has observed a virtual truce since 12 January, when the government of then-President Carlos Salinas de Gortari ordered a unilateral cease-fire to seek a peaceful solution to the armed conflict.

The statements by Robledo Rincon, who won the gubernatorial elections in August, were made after meeting with Governor Javier Lopez Moreno at the government offices in the state capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez, 1,150 km southeast of Mexico City.

Avendano affirmed yesterday that he will meet Saturday in Mexico City with new Government Secretary Esteban Moctezuma Barragan to seek a political solution to the post-electoral conflict in Chiapas.

Avendano, former governor candidate for the center-left opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], said Robledo Rincon must not assume the office of governor, after charging that his victory was the result of "irregularities" in the state elections.

At a news conference in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 1,200 km southeast of Mexico City, Avendano explained that the upcoming meeting with the federal government reflects Zedillo's determination to resolve the state's problems through dialogue.

The politician said he will brief Moctezuma Barragan on the decision of the independent State Assembly of the Chiapas People to form a transitional government led by Avendano and a Constituent Congress to reform the state constitution.

Avendano added: "He will listen carefully to the proposals of the current administration to resolve and explain the irregularities... although a final decision to reach a satisfactory agreement for both parties will be made by the State Assembly."

Avendano spoke to the press during the recess of a meeting held in San Cristobal de las Casas among Indians, peasant organizations, and state PRD officials to agree on ways to prevent the inauguration of Robledo Rincon.

Various marches began yesterday in southeastern Chiapas with the intention of meeting up with other groups in the state capital on the day the change of command ceremony will be held, the opposition leader announced.

In San Cristobal de las Casas, the National Mediation Commission for the Armed Conflict announced that, over the weekend or Monday, it will unveil a proposal that will serve as a basis for a review of the problems of agrarian, educational, and social backwardness in Chiapas.

The proposal, which will be examined at "working tables," includes initiatives to resolve the post-electoral conflict which rule out a transitional government or changes to the state constitution, because these points fall under the jurisdiction of the state Congress, he indicated.

The commission, an independent group created in October to assist mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz, termed as positive Zedillo's inaugural address, which called for seeking a political solution to the armed conflict through every available means.

On Friday in Mexico City, nine pro-government and opposition lawmakers formed the Special Plural Commission to monitor and follow up on the conflict in Chiapas in an effort to contribute to a just, dignified, and definitive peace in the state.

Oscar Lopez Velarde, coordinator for the Plural Commission, has said the organization comprises five senators from the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), two from the PRD, and two others from the conservative opposition National Action Party.

The Plural Commission, which could begin operating as early as Saturday or Sunday, will replace a similar legislative group and continue the task of evaluating and following up on the conflict with the armed group, the PRI's Lopez Velarde emphasized.

Meanwhile, the Chiapas Attorney General's Office reported on Friday that it had rescued 64 people who were being held at the Prussia Estate in Angel Albino Corzo Municipality since early Thursday morning by a group of peasants who had overrun the property.

Among those rescued, eight had been injured by firearms or stones, State Attorney General Jose Luis Gomez Santaella said in Tuxtla Gutierrez. Gomez Santaella also noted that the owner of the Folke Von Knoo Estate also was rescued and the body of a peasant was recovered from the property.

In this action, he added, policemen seized from the invaders shotguns and .22 and .26 caliber rifles, seven dynamite cartridges, and six ski masks. Meanwhile, judicial authorities have launched an investigation into the case.

Gomez Santaella stated that as of Friday evening, no negotiations had been opened with the invaders of the coffee estate, although he claimed there is willingness on the part of the state government to begin a dialogue.

The State Attorney General's Office reported that on Thursday there was a clash between owners of the Prussia estate and peasants from Angel Albino Corzo Municipality in which one person was killed and three others injured.

On Friday evening, local PRD leader Gabriel Gutierrez Avila announced that PRD supporters had peacefully occupied a farm in Mapastepec Municipality in western Chiapas to protest the upcoming inauguration of Robledo Rincon. Those who occupied the farm also demanded that the state Congress dismiss Mapastepec Mayor Luz Maria Cruz Aguilar for allegedly misusing public funds in that municipality.

Chiapan Societal Discontent Examined

95CA0035A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 28 Oct 94 p 20

[Commentary by Luis Javier Garrido, member of the National Autonomous University of Mexico's Center for Social Research: "Civil Insurgency"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Chiapas the military insurrection has been followed by the civil insurgency, and an unheard-of scenario in national politics has developed. The acts of civil disobedience that the indigenous peoples of Chiapas have begun are unprecedented in Mexico for their scope and likewise create prospects for a new path towards democracy.

1. The social injustices under the party of the State "system" triggered the armed uprising of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] on 1 January, and Salinas' electoral fraud in the state of Chiapas on 21 August has prompted an energetic response from the indigenous peoples in various areas of the state (they being the poorest citizens in our country). They have

announced a wide-ranging program of civil disobedience, against both the federal government and the illegitimate state authorities, demanding their autonomy and their right to have a government that they have elected and enjoining the federal government to comply with its constitutional duties. The Chiapas conflict thus continues to intensify and, therefore, constitutes a national concern.

2. As we know, civil disobedience involves actions by the citizenry who, having good reasons not to obey the orders of an authority, the imposition of illegitimate officials or an unjust law, deliberately violate provisions of the law. From John Locke to Gandhi and Martin Luther King, the theoreticians of civil disobedience have argued that it is morally justified and have acknowledged it as one of the most effective peaceful paths to change. This is precisely what broad segments of the Chiapan people are doing. They have begun a series of actions and omissions, both personal and collective, and all of them public and peaceful, rejecting the policies of the federal government and its attempt to impose a PRI governor on the state. They are thus organizing the most significant civil disobedience in Mexico's history for the central purpose of being able to govern themselves.

3. As we also know, civil disobedience has been seen only rarely in our country as a weapon of struggle—hence the significance of the decision by the people of Chiapas. In 1985 and 1986, after the electoral frauds in Nuevo Leon and Chihuahua, several groups of PAN [National Action Party] members undertook acts of civil disobedience (takeovers of bridges and highways, income-tax strikes) in an attempt to halt the machinery of electoral fraud, but they soon abandoned them. "Maquio" Clouthier developed a full-fledged strategy in this regard in 1988, but after 6 July he was stopped by his party's leadership. Throughout Salinas' six-year term, after various fraudulent elections, some attempts were made in this direction, but they were unavailing, and opposition leaders thus scrapped the idea. In 1994, for example, PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and PAN leaders asserted that they were preparing acts of civil disobedience given the prospect of fraud, but after 21 August it became obvious that they had not been telling the truth and had prepared no civic action whatsoever to respond to what they knew was coming. For this reason, Chiapas truly surprises us.

4. In light of all the above, the situation in Chiapas continues to define national politics, and to an unimagined extent. From a civic perspective, of course, it is striking that the people whose fundamental rights the local oligarchy and the central technocratic power structure have denied are once again the ones who are most fully assuming their role as citizens and providing a fresh example of dignity. As for the government, what is indeed noteworthy, therefore, is its inflexibility, which has driven the people to take such increasingly radical action, as at bottom they are defending the basic right of indigenous peoples to life, to happiness, and, of course, to elect the people who are going to govern them.

5. The takeovers of city halls, the blockades of roads, and the occupations of estates have been happening one after the other in 1994, but their purpose now is also to defend the right to autonomy and, obviously, to have the governor for whom they voted. The 200 Indians from the CEOIC who blocked the road to Tuxtla put it clearly in graffiti: "Here in this municipality," they painted on a wall, "begins the Autonomous, Free, and Sovereign Region of the Northern Zone of Chiapas" (LA JORNADA, 22 October). The groups from the CIOAC [Independent Federation of Agricultural Workers and Peasants], the PRD, and civil society who took over the city halls in Simojovel, Huitupan, and Soyalo, repudiated the municipal authorities (PRI members), and installed pluralist city councils, by deciding to cut off roads (LA JORNADA, 26 October 1994) are posing a unique democratic challenge to a government that for six years has been indifferent to realities in the country and unable to respond politically to the demands of Mexicans.

6. Throughout these six years the Salinas administration has spoken in two languages: one inside the country and another overseas, one in words and the other in deeds. The case of Chiapas documents this extensively. During an official visit to New York last summer, prominent businessman Claudio X. Gonzalez, an economic adviser to Salinas, met with 15 of the foremost newsmen specializing in Mexico at the famous 21 Club on West 52d Street, to whose famous bar New York reporters are prohibited from extending invitations on behalf of their newspapers. After a lavish lunch, enhanced by fine wines and paid for, of course, by the Mexican Government (which has no spending limits), the magnate addressed the issue of Chiapas with his guests, using language that is not common in PRI rhetoric for internal consumption. Claudio X., taking advantage of the fact that he was not on Mexican soil, felt at liberty to explain to the astonished reporters that the regime had a plan to resolve the Chiapas conflict, one based, he claimed, on an investment project. As on various Indian reservations in the United States, he told them, the Mexican Government planned to build casinos in the Chiapas Highlands and the Lacandon Forest. In the government's judgment, he added, these gambling houses would benefit the Indians, who, he went on to explain to his increasingly troubled listeners, could even become shareholders in them, as are "the tribes" in the southern United States. And as the newsmen looked on in amazement, Salinas' envoy asked them not to divulge the project for the time being. They complied, but the point is clear. The technocrats claim to respect the will of the Chiapan people and their constitutional right to land, water, and forests and to have democratically elected governments. But both in their policies and in the statements in which they reveal their true position, they show altogether clearly who they are, what sort of understanding they have of realities in the country, and what their real plans are. Where, then, is their respect for the individual and social rights of the peoples of Chiapas?

7. The administration of Carlos Salinas has always behaved deceitfully in the case of Chiapas and bears a serious responsibility, therefore, because it has brought about the critical situation that prevails today. It claimed that it would fulfill its constitutional duties as regards land, health care, housing, justice, and freedom, and it has not done so. It propagandized that the elections would be clean, and it then engaged in monumental State fraud to impose as governor Senator Eduardo Robledo, a servant of previous administrations and a representative of the estate owners and the most corrupt federal-government officials. It announced that it would seek peace, and it has brought together the largest fighting force in one state in Mexico's history: more than 50,000 soldiers, according to many. In this context, the statements by attorney Jorge Madrazo, the second "peace commissioner," who according to Amado Avendano "has not seen a Zapatist at 500 meters" (LA JORNADA, 23 October), could not be further from the truth. While setting up three observation camps near military checkpoints, Madrazo claimed that the government was acting "for peace" and would seek "a negotiated solution" to the conflict (LA JORNADA, 26 October) when the evidence proved the opposite. The outgoing administration (which seemingly does not want to leave) held back in January on its policy of extermination because of the citizen mobilization and international opinion, but it continues to pursue the same objectives in order to impose its neoliberal program, that is to say, oppose any democratic liberalization, strengthen the estate system, consolidate cacique power, cut social spending, and hand over more of Chiapas' resources, including oil, to the transnational corporations.

8. There can only be one political response to the conflict in Chiapas. This is what the outgoing administration (which does not want to leave) cannot understand. The authorities in the capital can meet the social challenge of the Chiapas Indian peoples only by acknowledging their right to autonomy, meaning their ability to govern themselves, to have their own state government, and to enjoy fully the individual and social rights enshrined in the General Constitution. They must respond with generosity, not intolerance, and from what they have shown us during the past six years and given the short time they have remaining, this no longer seems possible. Thus, there is steadily mounting concern over the many facets of the problem.

9. The solution that has been taking shape to the post-electoral situation does not make us too optimistic about what the outgoing authorities (who cannot get themselves to leave) can and want to do. The problem in Chiapas cannot be resolved, as the short-sighted PRI would like, by having Robledo negotiate with Avendano. Robledo has no legitimacy whatsoever to govern Chiapas, not only because he represents the worst interests in the state but also because he made use of colossal fraud, in other words, committed many criminal acts, to clamber into the governor's chair. We need only recall that according to the Office of the Attorney for the Chiapan People, there was fraud in at least half of the voting booths (LA JORNADA, 25 October). Avendano, in contrast, was the candidate for whom real votes were cast and ought to become the governor of the state so that he can head up the democratic transition. He enjoys the legitimacy to do so, and no negotiation is possible there. So, the members of PRI (and the PRD) who think negotiation is possible are grossly mistaken.

10. The conclusions to be derived from this situation are clear. The social and political struggle of the peoples of Chiapas, first through military means and now in unwonted acts of civil disobedience, has remained throughout these months a struggle for all Mexicans, and therefore they deserve a response.

And responding to them also means defending our own right to be citizens.

PRI Names New President, Secretary General

PA0412014894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1911 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Maria de los Angeles Moreno today was named national president of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). She replaces Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, who resigned from the position.

Speaking before some 1,500 PRI members, the PRI National Executive Committee (CEN) president promised to advance party reforms and to respect and acknowledge party members and leaders. She also promised to find new ways to attract young people to the party and to step up work being done in support of young people.

Moreno, who also is a senator for the Federal District, received her fellow party members' recognition for her work as a woman, a politician, a friend, and a Mexican.

At the same event, Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, who was the PRI's social affairs secretary, was named secretary general of the PRI. He comes from the southeastern state of Quintana Roo. Coldwell began his political career in 1971, and he has held several positions in union, peasant, and grass-roots organizations.

Major Points of Zedillo's Economic Program Detailed

PA0312013094 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 30 Nov 94 p 31

[Article by Luis Acevedo Pesquera—passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[FBIS Translated Text] Through his economic program, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon is seeking to obtain a greater amount of social maneuverability by promoting new jobs, economic growth, and confidence for productive investments.

With this end in mind, he plans to turn the fiscal apparatus into an autonomous organization similar to the Bank of Mexico; deregulate the economy; reorganize the customs system; and, in the area of foreign trade, exercise the state's purchasing power. This strategy will be based on the following 10 points:

1. **Encouraging Investments To Promote Growth:** To create the jobs Mexicans are demanding, the economy must grow. This requires considerably increasing investments. Three specific actions are planned for this purpose:

First, increase public investments in 1995 "one-fourth above their current level."

Second, promote reforms that will permit budgeting public investments for several years to give more certainty to medium- and long-term projects.

Third, in order to encourage the participation of the private sector in infrastructure works, a fund to promote investments will be created, which will be financed with state contingency funds.

2. **Investing in Education, Training, and Health.** The main objective of the economic plan is increasing the well-being of families. More education, training, and better health services will be the platform to have more productive workers with better salaries.

In the labor field, "the only acceptable changes will be those leading to improving the workers' well-being."

3. **A Fiscal Policy for Investment.** In order to provide legal security and confidence for investments, the fiscal authority in charge of implementing fiscal laws and collecting taxes will become decentralized and autonomous. The national treasury will be at the service of taxpayers.

The Federal Fiscal Tribunal [El Tribunal Fiscal de la Federacion] will be strengthened. The time required for any fiscal action will be reduced and administrative streamlining will be reinforced. Tax payments by enterprises will be quarterly instead of monthly. The fiscal incentives program will be revised and actions to encourage production will be incorporated.

Taxes on assets will be revised based on operations. Rates will be reduced from 2 percent to 1.8 percent. A four-year grace period will be instituted to exclude new enterprises from paying this tax.

When established enterprises report losses in a fiscal year, they will not pay taxes on their assets, even if they reported profits for the previous three years.

The procedures to calculate workers' income taxes will be simplified to make it more proportional and equitable.

The Fiscal Coordination Law will be reformed.

4. **Promotion of Savings and Competitive Finance for Growth.** Competition and efficiency of the financial system will be encouraged to reduce interest rates. The development banking system resources and guarantees shall be increased to support small and medium-sized companies.

Credit associations and savings banks will be promoted, because "it is unacceptable that on the doorstep of the 21st century, 1,600 municipalities do not have" established financial "services."

5. **Greater Deregulation To Promote Jobs.** In coordination with state and municipal governments, an extensive process of deregulation will include all economic sectors. Transportation, the use of land, concessions, and public permits shall be deregulated. The changes shall be based on the experience of consensus in the agreement.

6. **Intermediate Supplies and Infrastructure To Compete.** The structure of the parastate companies in the energy sector will be modified. The participation of the private sector in generating power will be promoted while the state will limit itself to strengthening and improving its transmission and distribution.

In terms of infrastructure, the participation of the private sector will be promoted in the construction and operation of the highway system. Competition shall be increased in telecommunications, along with the substantial changeover of the railroad infrastructure, "a major pending task of modern Mexico."

7. **Technological Modernization for Greater Productivity.** Guidelines will be incorporated to reduce risks deriving from the delay in national technological modernization. Neutral and anti- discriminatory fiscal incentives will be created, and planned risk investments with the developing banking system and new types of association between companies will be encouraged. Industrial policy will be concentrated on creating conditions for everyone to participate in economic activities under fair conditions.

8. **Fair Competition Abroad.** The administrative and legal obstacles to Mexican exports overseas will be overcome; financing with guarantees will be broadened with more effective, adjustable guarantees, and greater participation of financial intermediaries.

Mexican legislation requirements will be applied to imports. Three-way trade of merchandise shall be avoided and the customs system will be totally restructured.

9. **Development of Mexican Countryside.** Procampo [Program of Direct Support to the Countryside] will be enhanced and consolidated. Agricultural infrastructure shall be developed to make the countryside profitable and to broaden the types of crops harvested. Excessive government involvement will end through the modernization of marketing plans. Bureaucracy and centralization will be wiped out. The states and municipalities will be responsible for resolving rural problems.

10. **Respect for the Environment.** Economic and fiscal incentives will be promoted to care for the environment, while environmental regulation will be reorganized and clarified through timetables that offer security to investments and reflect an adequate cost for society.

Secofi Outlines Gains From NAFTA in First 8 Months

PA0312190994 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 30 Nov 94 pp 68, 54

[Report by Patricia Munoz Rios]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the first eight months of NAFTA, exchanges between Mexico and the United States increased by approximately 21 percent, and almost 200 of the United States' leading industrial, commercial, and trade firms—particularly in the areas of finance and telecommunications—entered the Mexican market through strategic alliances and direct investments. Consequently, the flow of capital into Mexico increased by approximately 30 percent in comparison to last year.

The Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat (Secofi) yesterday disclosed the results obtained during the eight months that NAFTA has been in effect. These results show that due to the openness and prospects fostered by the agreement, sectors such as the automotive industry in 1994 made almost 50 foreign investments worth over $175 million.

The report points out that with the implementation of the agreement, coinvestment or investment plans were fulfilled or are in the process of being fulfilled by U.S. firms in the areas of telecommunications, television, textiles, automotive industry, steel, air travel, farming, food, beverages, aluminum, shoes, construction and real estate, consulting, household appliances, manufactured products, paper, health, self-service stores, and even entertainment.

One of the areas that most attracted the interest of foreign investors—particularly from the United States—was the financial sector. In addition to the operation permits extended by the Mexican Government to 52 foreign firms—"12 requests for the formation of limited purpose commercial partnerships are being considered—four brokerage firms, one surety company, one exchange house, and six investment partnerships—the results of which will be disclosed within the short term."

All in all, Mexico collected $8.9 billion in foreign investments during this period, 29 percent more than during the same period last year.

The report states that in addition to increased investments and coinvestments, bilateral trade increased considerably because between January and August 1994, Mexican exports to the United States increased by 22.3 percent, while U.S. exports to Mexico increased by 20.5 percent.

The report states that as a result of NAFTA, these percentages by far surpass those of the United States' other leading trade partners. For example, Canada increased its exports to the United States by 12.6 percent; the EC by 13.9 percent; and Japan by 12 percent. In other words, Mexican sales on the U.S. market increased twice as quickly as those of the rest of the world.

With regard to specific products, NAFTA has fostered the consolidation in the U.S. market of such Mexican exports as computers and computer parts, vehicle motors, automobiles and spare parts, and electrical wires and cables, among others.

Mexican exports to Canada, however, have not been that spectacular; although Mexico managed to increase its exports by 19.8 percent, the volume of its sales is not yet high.

One of the sectors that has gained the most strength with NAFTA is textiles, with an increase in exports of 33.6 percent during the first eight months of the year. In this area, strategic alliances were established between Sueteres de Alta Tecnologia Textil and Crystal Brand, Inc., and between Lista Vista de Tlaxcala and Wamaco Inc. The following firms also increased their investments: Compania Industrial de Parras, Grupo Libra de Gomez Palacio, Ibis de Mexico, and Celanese Mexicana, among others.

Another sector that gained strength with NAFTA was the automotive sector. Secofi explains that between January and August 1994, the number of cars exported increased by 25.7 percent, while 39,000 cars were imported, which means that for every car purchased abroad, nine were exported.

NAFTA caused a readjustment in the automotive sector that proved favorable to Mexico. Many investments were generated, the main ones with Japan's Nissan Mexicana, Yorozu, and Nabco; with Germany, Benteler, Brose, and Equipo Hemex; with the United States, Talleres Monserrat, Harada, and Dirona; and with Canada, Ventramex.

Among the strategic alliances generated in the automotive sector were: Creaciones Automotrices Nacionales and Daewoo of Korea; Autopartes de la Torre Riso, Industrias Robot, Filtros ATSA, and the Spalding company; Perstorp Component and Perstorp de Suecia; Euwe Eugen Wesler de Mexico and Bernardt Hinke; Aeroquip de Mexico and Aeroquip of the United States, among others.

The Secofi document asserts that deals have been made through NAFTA even in the farming sector. For example, the Kerry Group invested $100 million to produce and export dairy products and spices; Grupo Pulsar will carry out four investment projects to produce and export tobacco, fruits, and vegetables; and Liga Unida de Negocios Agricolas de Estados Unidos, which represents 800 companies, agreed to promote joint projects and share information with the Confederacion de Asociaciones Agricolas del Estado de Sinaloa.

According to the Secofi report, virtually no sector of the economy has escaped the interest of foreign businessmen—specifically the North Americans. Even in such areas as health there are projects, such as Sharp Health Care's plan to build a 120- room hospital in Mazatlan; and in such areas as recreation, with the Handleman company's coinvestment with Grupo Videovisa to sell compact discs, videos, and software on the national market. Scientific Games Holdings won a contract worth $1 million to furnish the National Lottery's tickets.

Zedillo Informs Business Representatives of Economic Plans

PA0312225694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Report by Gabriela Resendez; from the "24 Hours" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Zedillo today met with Mexican and foreign business representatives, and he explained the economic program Mexico will follow in the coming years.

[Zedillo] "First, as you may have guessed, the consolidation of price stability; second, encouraging growth and competition; third, the advancement of welfare and justice."

President Zedillo urged the businessmen to take note, stressing the following points:
1. Price stability will be improved through fiscal discipline and the autonomy of the Bank of Mexico.
2. Measures will be adopted to raise the rate of return from all projects.
[Zedillo] "3. My administration will remain committed to guaranteeing conditions of protection, equality, and fair treatment to encourage national and foreign private investments.
"4. We intend to establish tax policies that will facilitate private investments.
"5. We will promote trade and regulatory policies that encourage competition, especially among small and medium-sized businesses.
"6. We intend to perfect commercial opening by improving instruments to detect and, when necessary, deter unfair practices, illegal three-party transactions, contraband, and double invoicing."
7. Although the government will take advantage of already negotiated trade agreements, new free trade agreements will be reached with other regions of the world.
8. Deregulation will extend to all sectors of the economy by first cutting customs barriers.

[Zedillo] "We will eliminate exclusive benefits and establish clear-cut rules that can be applied across the board."
9. Private investment will be encouraged in works projects for highways, ports, telecommunications, agriculture infrastructure, and urban services.
[Zedillo] "10. With funds generated through the privatization program, as well as with revenues from the domestic and international capital markets, we intend to provide guarantees for investment projects to ensure financing that features interest rates and maturity dates that reflect real rates of return.
"11. We are certain that economic stability, the financial system's capacity, and our country's political stability will soon allow nominal interest rates, as well as real interest rates, to decline substantially."
12. A more competitive financial system will be encouraged.
13. Investments in human resources will be stressed.
14. Social development will be strengthened by improving health and social security services.
15. The government also will encourage the creation of jobs that are stable, productive, and well-paying.

President Zedillo advised that all of these plans will be carried out under a program that, while ensuring economic growth, also protects the environment and natural resources.

Belize

Prime Minister Interviewed on Miami Summit

PA0412034094 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Interview via satellite with Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel in Belmopan by Jacobo Zabludovsky at the XEW Television Studios in Mexico City; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live; Esquivel speaks in English fading into Spanish translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zabludovsky] Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel, thank you very much for granting us this interview.

[Esquivel] Thank you. It is a pleasure to be with you today.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. Esquivel, 34 American heads of state and government will meet in Miami, Florida, next week. What do you expect from this meeting?

[Esquivel] As you know, a number of the general issues to be broached at this meeting were prepared by the United States, and a few others were prepared by the Central American, Caribbean, and South American countries. I believe we, as a region, should further the discussion of issues such as economic development and sustainable development. Although we appreciate the United States' concern for the furtherance of democracy and open governments, which our countries are attempting to accomplish, I believe the most important issues for the countries south of the Rio Grande are commercial development and sustainable development.

[Zabludovsky] A few days ago, the state of California in the United States approved Proposition 187, which is considered to be discriminatory toward foreigners. What is your opinion on this?

[Esquivel] I understand this is not a U.S. Government policy but, rather, it is a local problem in California. I must answer your question with sincerity. First, all of our countries, including Mexico, recognize their right to restrict the immigration of people across their borders. Belize also recognizes this right. So, based on this, we have to accept that the United States also has this right.

Now, about the specific measures approved by voters in California to eliminate health and educational services for children, I believe this must be viewed not so much as an obstacle to immigration but as a humanitarian problem. Thus, the Mexicans, as well as people in other countries, are very concerned for those children. They are not responsible for any illegal action committed by their parents and, unfortunately, will be the ones penalized. I believe there are better ways for a government to confront its immigration problems.

[Zabludovsky] A few days ago you met with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. What significance did this meeting have for you and what were its results?

[Esquivel] President Zedillo toured the Central American countries, including Belize, and he continued the course established by President Salinas before he assumed the presidency six years ago. This is very significant to us and to the rest of the Central American countries, because it shows that Mexico will continue its policy of friendship with the countries in the region and with Belize. It also indicates that many of the programs established between our countries will continue.

Mexico and Belize have established programs in almost every sector—for example, health, transportation, communication, culture, and education. The programs cover topics that are very important to the people of Belize and also to the people of Mexico. We have developed many programs at a corporate level. President Zedillo's visit expressed the new government's willingness to cement those corporate programs and to continue to have friendly and peaceful relations between our two countries.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. Esquivel, do you wish to add anything?

[Esquivel] I would just like to say to the people of Mexico, and to all those watching us, that Belize feels honored to have the Republic of Mexico as its neighbor. We are honored that Mexico has established such close and firm relations with Belize, especially because it is such a small country in comparison to Mexico, and that our relationship has always been based on equality and friendship. I hope this friendship continues to flourish and that it benefits the people of Belize and Mexico. Thank you.

El Salvador

President on Migrant Accord, Miami Summit

PA0212233394 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 2 Dec 94

[News conference by President Armando Calderon Sol with domestic reporters and an unidenfied moderator at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador; broadcast in progress—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Calderon Sol] ...U.S. Vice President Al Gore. We discussed the problem of our fellow countrymen in the United States and the extension of their temporary residence or temporary permits to work in the United States. I believe we have achieved a true diplomatic victory. The United States of America has agreed to extend this program until 30 September 1995. This extension was achieved thanks to the efforts made by the Salvadoran Government. Also, because many congressmen and senators have been understanding and have supported our cause, we have to thank them, as well as many officials within the U.S. State Department, Justice Department, and INS who accepted the Salvadoran request and supported it. I believe that through the backing of many immigrant organizations and foundations, as well as through the cooperation provided by many people, we have achieved a true diplomatic victory. I do indeed believe we should be satisfied.

Also, Vice President Al Gore clearly told me the U.S. Government has a commitment and will never deport Salvadorans en masse. We have to be very clear about this in an effort to give assurances to the Salvadoran family, especially considering there was great uncertainty in many Salvadoran sectors, both here in this country and in the United States. Many Salvadorans were concerned and uncertain, and they have to be assured that there will never be a mass deportation of Salvadorans and that the program has been extended.

Also, those Salvadorans will be able to opt for a different kind of migration status later on. I believe Salvadoran authorities and citizens must see this new situation as being very encouraging, and we have to provide assistance to our people. This is why I have ordered our consuls to meet with our ambassador to study the immigration laws of that country. They are already meeting in Washington. Between now and September 1995, our consuls also will meet with the Bar Associations in several U.S. cities to assist our fellow countrymen and to allow them to take on a different migrant status that will guarantee their permanence in the United States of America. Therefore, the government will be providing such assistance. We have already been notified, and at this time all consuls are in Washington with our ambassador reviewing the resolution we received today from INS.

I believe the U.S. Government has been very helpful, and it has shown its desire to help El Salvador and its people. We have personally thanked Vice President Gore for his clear position. We are also very grateful to President Clinton, to whom I sent several letters urging him to extend the deadline, which has been granted.

We have expressed our deepest gratitude to him on behalf of the Salvadoran people, because of this resolution and because he has answered the requests of the Salvadoran people.

This is the information we have for you. It was just released in Washington, and we are just disclosing it now here in San Salvador.

[Moderator] Let us begin with a question from Ernesto Lopez from the "Telepress" newscast.

[Lopez] Good morning, Mr. President. Welcome back to our country. You answered the question I had planned to ask, but there are also problems here at home. For example, take the case of Social Security. What knowledge do you have about it, and what is the situation?

[Calderon] It is strictly a labor movement. We believe we can hold a dialogue and talk about it in an effort to find a solution to the problem. I want to make a call to the country's labor sector and to the Social Security's labor sector and tell them that we should talk and hold a dialogue to find a solution to their labor problems. In this regard we must also think about rendering the essential services we provide. We cannot deny health services to Salvadoran workers—to the people who contribute to Social Security and who require this vital service.

[Moderator] Laura Pena Argueta.

[Pena] Good morning, Mr. President. You mentioned programs to enable consulates to provide assistance to our fellow countrymen wishing to change their migrant status, but only nine months remain to do this. What will happen to those who do not meet the requirements to opt for this new status?

[Calderon] There are several different kinds of status. We have to see what we can do for our fellow countrymen. There are legal opportunities to obtain permits to remain in the United States. That is why we have to provide assistance. This is not a single case, and not all Salvadorans can qualify as one case. We are talking about several different cases, and this is why we are organizing various actions to provide assistance. We also have had the cooperation of many Bar Associations from different cities in the United States. They are cooperating with us.

Salvadorans should feel proud that Salvadorans have a name and prestige. The truth is that Salvadorans are a hard-working people. Salvadorans are people who earn their respect and admiration because of their efficiency in their work. This is why opportunities are being opened for them in the United States. Our people have overcome a thousand obstacles and problems and have come out ahead because of their discipline and commitment to work.

[Moderator] Mario Jovel from the "Up-to-Date" newscast.

[Jovel] Good morning, Mr. President. This generosity is called the DED [Deferred Deportation Program], and every time it is extended, its name is changed. I would like to know if the name of the program will again be changed with this new extension. I would also like to know whether all U.S. Government authorities approve of this. Will there be protests later because of this U.S. Government resolution?

[Calderon] The United States is a democratic country. We are not aware whether, in fact, there are protests, or whether, in fact, some groups may not like the extension of this program. Some groups in the United States would not like the extension of the program. The important thing is that we have gotten the U.S. Government to extend it. We have received support from many congressmen and senators from both parties. We have received bipartisan support. It has not been a position that has been rejected.

There may be other groups within the United States that do not like the extension of this program; however, that is not what is important. I believe there are anti-immigrant groups, but they are minority groups, and I believe the majority of the American people support us and their government's decision. As for a name change, I do not know anything about that. There could be other programs with other names. There are other programs with different names, and Salvadorans could turn to those programs as well.

[Moderator] Amadeo Cabrera of LA NOTICIA will pose the next question.

[Cabrera] Good day, Mr. President. Yesterday, demobilized individuals from the National Police asked the Legislative Assembly to approve a decree granting them bonuses. Do you believe these demobilized individuals are entitled to bonuses?

[Calderon Sol] You know what the bonus is all about. It is a bonus for active workers in the month of December. If they have demobilized and have already received compensation, the bonus is not budgeted and, because it cannot be considered, it cannot be paid.

The truth is that there is no budget allotment for this purpose. It is not possible for all demobilized individuals to receive a bonus. This is inconceivable. For example, it would be like someone who left his job today, and then came around later to demand a bonus from the company for which he worked one and one-half or two years ago.

I think this situation is being handled with political interests in mind and in a dangerous manner, which is not in line with true reconciliation. We must be open and clearly explain this issue. I hope the press and you, in your capacity as reporters, clearly explain the information in such a way that it does not create false expectations and hopes among people who perhaps do not understand the situation. Obviously, a person who demobilized some time ago should not be entitled to a bonus payment.

[Moderator] Blanca Ruth Alarcon of EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Alarcon] Good day, Mr. President. Some people have complained about the never-ending drug trafficking cases. I would like to know this: What is the government doing to counter this problem?

Meanwhile, early yesterday morning another oil spill, or rather, a spill from an oil bunker occurred. We also would like to know your position on this.

[Calderon Sol] You have seen the government's very clear and responsible commitment against contraband. You have seen the National Civilian Police [PNC] in action, and its units have dealt serious blows to contraband. You saw the recent case that was transferred to the courts—a case that was quickly settled. I think we must... [pauses] The fact that these cases are being transferred to the judiciary and those involved are quickly being released, without getting the bottom of these offenses, discourages the PNC. Nevertheless, it was proven that there was no payoff in connection with import policies. We are waging a constant struggle, and we will continue to wage a constant struggle against contraband, which always worsens in November and December because of Christmas sales.

Nevertheless, you can rest assured that the government is determined, as the Salvadoran people must be, to fight this scourge. The government must improve its finances. The government must fight fiscal evasion, which is making it impossible to meet budgetary needs and the nation's expenses.

Regarding the oil spill, we have in fact confirmed it and ordered an investigation into it, as well as into the amounts that were spilled. This will enable us to determine who is responsible. We are considering laws that will protect our environment. We are concerned about this situation and we believe this situation—namely, a second oil spill—is alarming. The government is already looking into this matter.

[Moderator] Raul Monge of Cadena Radio Centro will ask the next question.

[Monge] Mr. President, we know the Central American position on the Summit of the Americas, as expressed by the foreign ministers here, but specifically, what will El Salvador propose and what are its main interests?

[Calderon Sol] Well, as you know, we Central Americans are going to the Summit of the Americas with a united position. Central America will present a united position at the summit because it believes that by presenting a united stand, our position will be more respected and better heeded. Undoubtedly, together we represent a market of more than 30 million people.

I believe this has significance in the Central American region. In today's world, in which globalization is increasingly important, this has great significance for commerce and free trade.

We are demanding trade opportunities. We do not think that what we will requesting at the Miami summit is charity or handouts. On this, we must be quite clear. We are bringing a complete statement for the sustainable development of the region, and we want unequivocal treatment in the area of trade. We believe in commercial exchange. We believe we should be given certain advantages, because of the disadvantages we face with NAFTA. Along with the advantages, we have to work to bring investment into Central America and to promote trade with the United States.

Based on this, the Central Americans will be taking a unanimous position to the summit. The same applies to other issues, such as democracy and corruption. We are working hard to combat corruption, because we believe we will never have true democracy and never be able to consolidate the democratic systems in the hemisphere if we do not fight corruption or if true financial transparency does not exist. This is essential for democracy to take root and grow strong in America.

We are also very clear about having to fight drug addiction and drug trafficking. All across America and throughout the hemisphere we have common problems. We must face these problems with common solutions. The world is getting smaller, and we have computerized communications technology that allows us to exchange information. Our governments must face these problems together. We cannot confront international crime on our own, when all our countries share this common problem.

[Moderator] Salvador Castellanos, Telemundo.

[Castellanos] Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning. I would like to continue on the same topic—the Summit of the Americas, which is getting closer and closer. How important can the common position of a region like Central America be for the Americas, the United States, and the world powers that will be there? Are they really going to listen to us, Mr. President? Will we Central Americans—particularly us, the Salvadorans—really get something out of this?

[Calderon Sol] Why yes. Remember that the major world power will be the United States; this is a hemispheric summit; this is the Summit of the Americas. Therefore, only the presidents from America's continental and Caribbean nations will be there. Central America is a respected region, and it has won prestige. Central America is at the forefront of change. Sometimes we do not realize what we have achieved in El Salvador. We have great international prestige and recognition. The peace process and the democratic process, following the sad and painful years that are over and done with now, mean something important for El Salvador and Central America: They mean prestige. Now is the time for Central America to speak up, because now it has the moral authority to do so. I believe the United States will listen to us, along with all of the other countries of America.

We will present our strategy for development at the Summit of the Americas, and then we will present other issues. Outside of the summit, the Central American nations will hold a meeting with Colombia and Brazil, which are coffee-producing countries, to determine what to do to bolster coffee prices. As you know, the price of coffee has fallen somewhat recently. It has not yet dropped to the extent it did in other worse years, but there has been a significant drop. We do want to address the coffee problem at the summit itself. Also, the Central American presidents met with the president of Colombia in Mexico, and we will invite the president-elect of Brazil to join us in Miami. He will be inaugurated on 1 January and will be in Miami for the Summit of the Americas.

Let me say, then, that Central America is a region with 30 million inhabitants and an integrated market. It has a place among the world's nations and is respected for the gigantic steps it has taken in the areas of peace and democracy, as well as for what it is doing today in favor of economic integration.

[Moderator] Here is Marvin Quintero of Canal Cuatro Television.

[Quintero] Good morning, Mr. President. I have two questions: First, you have already been able to delay the repatriation of our fellow nationals. Did you talk with U.S. Vice President Al Gore about Proposition 187, which (Pedro Nicken) also viewed as a violation of human rights? Second, two nights ago, there was a presumed attack on the 5 November Dam. Did you know about this?

[Calderon Sol] As for Proposition 187, Vice President Al Gore is convinced this law violates basic human rights and he unquestionably rejects it. You have also heard about President Clinton's position: He unquestionably rejects Proposition 187. The effects of Proposition 187 have been annulled, and this is what we must tell Salvadorans and all other illegal immigrants in California. We must tell them that Proposition 187 has been suspended. Many of these illegal immigrants are not getting health or educational services because they are afraid of being turned out of the country. This is occurring because these people do not know Proposition 187 has been suspended. Thank God, the effects of Proposition 187 have been suspended by the legal authorities in the state of California. Moreover, there is another alternative—namely, an appeal can be filed before the U.S. Supreme Court to have the law declared unconstitutional.

Proposition 187 definitely violates human rights and declarations such as the World Convention on Children's Rights, the Human Rights Convention, and many other agreements and principles of international law. To deny children their right to receive health services and assistance in California completely contradicts the generous beliefs of the U.S. people and the humanitarian principles consecrated by the American Revolution in the U.S. Constitution.

We clearly believe Proposition 187 will not be enforced. This is what we must now explain to our fellow citizens to prevent them from turning away from health services because of fear. This is the [word indistinct] campaign we must now launch.

As for the dam incident, we know there were and are gangs of common criminals who have been causing problems in the area of the dam. The PNC is investigating the activities of these common criminals, who must be captured and turned over to the courts. There has been an attempt to link these incidents with political motives or past events. We are certain, however, it is nothing more than gangs involved in common crime in the northern area, where the PNC is already conducting an operation.

[Quintero] You claim that these people are common criminals and outlaws, but apparently clashes with the Air Force occurred and heavy weapons were used. This attack even caused a blackout nationwide.

[Calderon Sol] [Words indistinct] I have just arrived. I have not been briefed yet. I cannot tell you today whether or not the incident took place as you have related it.

[Moderator] Here is Claudia Rivera of LA PRENSA GRAFICA.

[Rivera] Mr. President, has the Salvadoran Government prepared a counter proposal or made any commitments since U.S. Vice President Al Gore committed himself to extend the DED?

[Calderon Sol] No. There are no counter proposals or commitments. The United States has only acknowledged the efforts being made by El Salvador and the Salvadorans to achieve peace. The U.S. decision is only an acknowledgement to the progress achieved in the democratic process. I believe there are no conditions. It is a unilateral act by the United States because the issue involves immigration laws.

[Moderator] Odir Sanchez from EL MUNDO newspaper.

[Sanchez] Good morning. My question has to do with the Social Security case. You have already issued a call to dialogue. This morning, however, there was a confrontation. PNC and National Police members were deployed there. The situation started to heat up. If necessary, would you resort to deploying the Armed Forces, as you did in the case of San Miguel, Mr. President?

[Calderon Sol] No. The truth is that, as you know, we resorted to the Armed Forces because there were very few PNC members available in San Miguel at the time. We have the PNC here, however, and we are asking people not to get violent. I believe the ideal thing is not to resort to the use of force. We do not want violence. What we want is to maintain dialogue, harmony, joint efforts, peace, and tranquillity, all of which has cost us dearly. This is why I am issuing a call to the workers to talk and engage in a dialogue, as well as to avoid extremes of violence and overrunning properties. Violence can only bring suffering to the Salvadoran people. As we approach Christmas, we must make goodwill efforts to find harmony and tranquillity.

[Moderator] The final question will [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Good morning, Mr. President. A short while ago you said NAFTA includes disadvantages for Central America and that the situation would be discussed at the Summit of the Americas. I would like to know which disadvantages we are talking about.

[Calderon Sol] Everyone knows that NAFTA has brought or could bring about disadvantages for Central America because it does not facilitate foreign investment in this region. You understand that NAFTA facilitates U.S. investments in Mexico. This is natural. There has been talk of a parity system. There is talk of a temporary system of trade to create certain advantages for the region. Certainly, Central America does not see itself as being much different from Mexico. In some areas we have the same industries and the same industrial capability as Mexico. Of course, the Mexicans may have a greater potential in terms of sophistication, but they have the same capabilities we have. This is why we believe we are at a certain disadvantage. Mexico recognizes this and Mexico is not opposed. On the contrary, Mexico has given us its solidarity to get the United States to sign bilateral agreements with Central America.

[Moderator] With this we are concluding the news conference.

Nicaragua

Ortega Receiving Medical Care in Cuba

PA0212164994 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Carlos Garcia Castillo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], was hospitalized at a Cuban medical center following the detection of the delicate results of a heart attack he suffered three months ago.

It was reported in Havana that a specialized medical team is giving him specific tests to establish the extent of the arterial blockage and the appropriate medical treatment. Dr. Milton Mairena, Commander Daniel Ortega's personal physician, was in constant contact with Cuban physicians yesterday and said the vitality and good physical conditions of the Sandinist leader are essential to overcoming the crisis provoked by the heart attack. FSLN National Directorate member Monica Baltodano said in reply to a question by BARRICADA that the people, Sandinists in particular, are aware of "Daniel's extraordinary physical condition, which will now be key to overcoming the medical crisis."

Baltodano affirmed that Ortega's intense work schedule, "which devotes unlimited time to handling various partisan and national responsibilities, is the main cause of his health crisis."

"Daniel is overcoming the critical state that caused the heart attack some weeks ago. His heart, in particular, had to endure in the past months long working days without weekends and rest, compounded by the tension and pain caused by the visceral attacks by comrades of our own party, who have made him the their favorite target due to his stubbornness and dedication as a revolutionary," Monica Baltodano stated. She stated that she is fully confident that Ortega will be fine in the next hours, "but

Sandinists must care for him as one does with a brother, all the more so with older brothers. We must take care of our brothers like Tomas Borge, who *has been showered* with excrement and bile by those who are so bent on destroying him that they have publicly revealed an inclination to kill him."

In message released yesterday shortly after Ortega's health condition was known, Monica stated that "Sandinists must care for them, because the FSLN and the cause need them, and because we love them."

Meanwhile, Dr. Mairena felt that the coronary obstruction from which the Sandinist leader is apparently suffering may be caused by arteriosclerosis, which is characterized by fat and calcium deposits on the coronary walls.

He said, however, that the vitality, intense work pace, healthy life, and physical exercise he performs daily are factors which helped him overcome the heart ailment detected in Cuba.

Last night in Managua, there was no specific information on the level of Ortega's obstruction, but the state of his health is stable and the medical diagnosis is extremely positive, Cardiologist Mairena stated.

Major General Cuadra on Constitutional Amendments

PA0312013694 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Extravision" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo spoke today about the Army's position on the constitutional amendments.

General Humberto Ortega Saavedra was expected to attend the ceremony to close the first course for sergeants at the Andres Castro Seargeants School, but Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo presented the apologies of Gen. Humberto Ortega, who was in Mexico. The major general has been very accessible to the press lately. Cuadra commented on various issues of the country's life upon finishing a review of the school.

[Begin recording] [Cuadra] No changes have been made in the Army to please the Department of State or the Department of Defense of the United States or any other country. We are making these changes going by our own conscience, and the basic national consensus we have achieved. Nicaraguans are taking this action for Nicaraguans. If these changes please some sector, that is fine; if they do not—as we are certain they will not please Senator Jesse Helms, for example—then we, frankly, do not care.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the Army's opinion of the constitutional amendments the National Assembly approved recently?

[Cuadra] We believe that in the transition Nicaragua is experiencing, it is undoubtedly necessary to move the legal and political structures safeguarding the democratic regime. We are.... [pauses] safeguarding this democratic regime we are trying to build. For that reason, we believe these amendments will ultimately unite, not divide, Nicaraguans if properly made, if they are good (amendments). [end recording]

Increase in Registration of FSLN Members

95P20211A

[FBIS Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish reports on page 8 of its 6 November edition that during the recent round of member registration, 333,609 Sandinists signed up with the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), more than tripling the 80,000 registrants originally projected. In Esteli, where 14,000 were expected to sign up, 26,000 registered. In Pantasma, "the breeding ground for the counterrevolution in Jinotega," 1,300 registered, while in La Trinidad there are now 1,500 registered Sandinists instead of the 700 forecasted. According to the article, registering members cost the FSLN 250,000 cordobas, or approximately 73 centavos per member.

Panama

President Returns; Comments on Summit, Talks in Mexico

PA0212202494 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1732 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Report by Jose Ivan Ramos, from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Miami summit will not focus on the Cuban political crisis; other hemispheric issues will be discussed, President Ernesto Perez Balladares said upon his return to Panama early this morning. The Panamanian president, who attended his Mexican counterpart's inauguration, also met with Mexican business leaders and U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

President Perez Balladares arrived at the National Air Service Airport in Tocumen at 0230. In brief statements to reporters, he described his trip as the beginning of a new era of diplomatic relations between Panama and Mexico.

[Begin Perez Balladares recording] We [Zedillo and Perez] have developed a good personal and political friendship, and I am sure this friendship will benefit both Panama and Mexico. Therefore, I have returned very pleased and hopeful that the course of Panama's traditional relations with Mexico will be restored. [end recording]

Perez Balladares added that the issue of Panama's oil debt with Mexico was not discussed. As for reports that former Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will attend the Bambito III summit this weekend, Perez Balladares said that his participation has not yet been confirmed. Meanwhile, Perez Balladares said that his visit to Mexico allowed him to intensify relations with the other American leaders who attended the inauguration.

[Begin recording] [Perez Balladares] I intensified relations with other Latin American presidents with whom I had an opportunity to converse, and also with U.S. Vice President Gore, with whom I held a private meeting yesterday. However, the specific issue of a possible bilateral free trade agreement between Mexico and Panama was not discussed.

[Unidentified reporter] Was the agenda of the Miami summit discussed, Mr. President?

[Perez Balladares] Of course. I believe that was among the obligatory topics of the informal conversations among all the Latin American presidents. Evidently, we are all very hopeful that the summit will not focus on the Cuban issue and that we will be able to discuss issues that are important to us. For example, trade throughout the continent, freedom of trade, free trade zones, the war against drug trafficking and money laundering, and certain other bilateral issues with the United States.

[Reporter] Is it true that the opposition will be invited to the Bambito summit, Mr. President?

[Perez Balladares] Look, I am not extending invitations to the Bambito summit. I must explain this. It is the United Nations that is extending invitations to the Bambito summit. I have been invited by the United Nations and I will attend as the United Nation's guest. I do not know if the United Nations will invite...[pauses] I suppose it will. They are a part of the country's political life. [end recording]

President Perez Balladares traveled to Mexico with his wife Dora Boyd de Perez Balladares; Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo and his wife; Boris Moreno, the president's private secretary; and Democratic Revolutionary Party President Gerardo Gonzalez.

Flanked by the presidential guard, Perez Balladares was welcomed home by First Vice President Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque and several members of his cabinet.

Perez Balladares Says U.S. To Support Panama's Entry Into GATT

PA0312014694 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Report on interview with President Ernesto Perez Balladares, upon his return from Mexico City, by an unidentified reporter in Panama City on 2 December; from "The RPC Television News" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Perez Balladares] We are pleased and hopeful that we will be able to return to the traditional relations that have existed between Panama and Mexico.

[Reporter] Did you discuss the negotiation of Panama's debt with Mexico?

[Perez Balladares] We did not even talk about that. We will eventually talk about it and hold negotiations.

[Reporter] Was the agenda of the Miami summit discussed, Mr. President?

[Perez Balladares] Of course. I believe that was among the obligatory topics of the informal conversations among all the Latin American presidents. Evidently, we are all very hopeful that the summit will not focus on the Cuban issue and that we will be able to discuss issues that are important to us. For example, trade throughout the continent, freedom of trade, free trade zones, the war against drug trafficking and money laundering, and certain other bilateral issues with the United States.

[Reporter] As for Panama's admission into GATT, what is the opinion of the other presidents?

[Perez Balladares] I can tell you that I heard very favorable opinions from Vice President Al Gore, who gave me his complete support for helping Panama join GATT with the least amount of upheaval as possible, as well as with Panama incurring the least possible cost. I hope we can do this in the upcoming negotiations.

Executive Promulgates Legislative Act No. 1 on Canal

PA0312021594 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p A-1

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In yesterday's GACETA OFICIAL, the executive promulgated Legislative Act No. 1, whereby a title is added to the Constitution regarding the administration of the Panama Canal.

With its promulgation in the GACETA OFICIAL, the new title has been incorporated into the Constitution [passage omitted]. The new title, called The Panama Canal, contains six articles and two transitory provisions and establishes the creation of the Panama Canal Authority, to be tasked with administering the waterway once it reverts to Panama at the end of this century. [passage omitted]

Administrator on Importance of Title

PA0512040594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1540 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Panama City, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Canal Administrator Gilberto Guardia believes the constitutional status given to the future operation of the interoceanic waterway will create an image of stability in the eyes of the world, but he adds that it does not resolve all of the problems the Panama Canal will face when the United States transfers it to Panama.

In statements to ACAN-EFE, Guardia, the first Panamanian to administer the Canal, stressed that the constitutional title is "an important step in the right direction" for Panama to assume "full responsibility" over the Canal in the year 2000.

To raise its status to a constitutional level means to increase its importance and stability, Guardia noted. The important thing is to have issued a message to the users of the Canal that "Panama wants to run the Canal very responsibly."

According to Guardia, Panamanian politicians "have been aware" of the importance of the constitutional title—a title that caused great division among National Assembly legislators on 24 November when they voted 48-20 in favor it.

The Canal administrator warned that "the constitutionalization" of the Canal "will definitely not guarantee" its good management. "Moreover, it does not mean that the Panamanians can do whatever they please now that the issue is resolved," he added.

He added that the constitutional title includes certain, but not all, political clarifications vital to the Canal's operation. These clarifications include guarantees of economic independence and the labor policy for an enterprise that employs more than 7,000 people, most of whom are Panamanian.

Those who support the constitutional title, which Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares had contended was vital, have argued that the title will prevent the administration of the Canal from being affected by political changes in Panama.

On 31 December 1999, the United States will transfer the Panama Canal and will vacate the military bases the Southern Command has been operating along the banks of the Canal in compliance with the treaties signed by late Panamanian General Omar Torrijos and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

After 31 December 1999, Guardia emphasized, the United States "will not play any role" in the Canal, whose operation will be the total responsibility of Panama, which will have full authority over it. The United States, he added, is currently giving Panama its full support to help it make the right decisions and to implement the appropriate legislation.

With regard to the controversy over whether or not the president should interfere in Canal matters, Guardia said the Panamanian president should have the same responsibility the U.S. President currently has. The president will have to delegate his responsibility to an agency whose board of directors should be appointed by him, but he "should in no way get involved in the Canal's operation," Guardia noted.

Guardia stressed that the Canal is more than just a waterway for shipping. It is a complex network of engineering, maintenance, and heavy industry work, whose deterioration "would immediately affect its service and usefulness to world commerce."

More than 1,000 ships use the 80 km Canal every month. They pay a toll based on their cargo. The Canal has never been closed to international maritime traffic since it began operating in 1914.

Guardia said the Canal, which brings in more than $400 million per year, is economically self-sufficient and its profitability is not "in question." It operates like a "private enterprise" without the United States or Panama having to contribute "a single penny" to its administration.

Since 1977, the Panama Canal Commission has been delivering to the Panamanian Government approximately $90 million a year, which is more or less 18 percent of the gross revenue, Guardia stated, adding that the Canal's future profitability will depend on the needs of world commerce.

Spain Agrees To Accept 100 Cuban Rafters in Panama

PA0412162494 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Dec 94 p 1A

[Report by Jose Otero]

[FBIS Translated Text] Immigration Director German Gil Sanchez reported yesterday that 100 Cuban rafters, who have been staying in Panama for the past two months, will be taken next week to Spain as refugees as a result of an agreement between the Spanish Government and that of the United States.

Sanchez explained that the rafters will be taken in three trips starting on 10 December. He said he did not know how it will be determined which Cubans will be going to Spain.

The immigration official reported that this week, the Spanish Embassy in Panama informed the national government about the agreement and the plans to transfer the Cuban rafters to a camp in Madrid.

Right now, more than 8,800 Cuban rafters are in eight Canal area camps as part of the "safe haven" agreement signed by Panama and the United States, which permits, under Southern Command responsibility, the entry into Panama of 10,000 Cubans from Guantanamo. The Cubans will stay in Panamanian territory for six months.

Argentina

Menem To Urge Cuban Democratization at Summit

PY0212163994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1326 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem today confirmed that during the summit of American presidents scheduled for 9-10 December in Miami, he will insist on his appeal for democracy in Cuba. He added that he would do so "regardless of the inclusion in or exclusion [of this issue] from the agenda" prepared by the United States.

Menem this morning emphasized: "You may rest absolutely assured that I will introduce this issue regardless of its inclusion in or exclusion from the agenda." He confirmed yesterday's remarks in Mexico, where, oddly enough, he was next to Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Menem distances himself from Castro whenever he attends international events.

Castro is the only American head of government who was not invited by Bill Clinton's administration to go to Miami on 9-11 December.

Menem also said the Haitian and Cuban cases are different because a UN-sponsored blockade on Haiti prompted constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return, while the nation governed by Castro is experiencing a U.S. embargo, which represents "a unilateral measure."

In this regard, Menem noted: "The United States—and not the United Nations—has actually prohibited U.S. entrepreneurs from selling any type of element to Cuba. We therefore can make sales to Cuba—and we actually make these sales—because the embargo represents a unilateral measure."

During a news conference at the Jorge Newbery metropolitan airport after arriving from Mexico, where he attended Ernesto Zedillo's inauguration, Menem explained that Cuba owes $1 billion to Argentina. He said he does not know when this debt will be settled.

Further on Military Cooperation With Mexico

PY0212222994 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Dec 94 pp 2, 3

[Report by Jorge Grecco]

[FBIS Translated Text] Official sources told CLARIN yesterday that the Argentine Government has sent a group of intelligence agents to Mexico to cooperate with the Mexican police and military in their fight against the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

The Argentine advisers went to Mexico in an official capacity following a "visit" by a Mexican police and military delegation to our country last March. The Mexican delegation participated in a special course on antiguerrilla tactics offered at the National Intelligence Center (CNI).

As a direct result of the visit, the Argentine and Mexican Governments decided it was necessary for Argentine agents to get "personally acquainted" with the situation in Mexico.

CLARIN yesterday published an exclusive report stating that Mexican police and military men consulted with Argentine experts following the violent EZLN eruption in Chiapas State last January.

The uprising in Santiago del Estero, Argentina, which resulted in the burning of the local Government House, the Congress building, and the court building, came just 15 days before the Mexican uprising. These violent events alarmed President Menem, who shared his fears on a possible new guerrilla outbreak in the continent with his Mexican counterpart Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The talks with Salinas de Gortari convinced Menem to create a security super-secretariat like the one in Mexico. It was then that the two governments decided to exchange experiences.

Antisubversive Repression

Official sources told CLARIN that the Mexicans were interested in "obtaining information" on the way Argentina handled the 1970's antisubversive repression. Some of those methods were judged to be "illegal repression" and condemned by the courts because they included very grave human right violations. The Mexicans learned what happened in Argentina during several courses offered for them at the CNI.

A trip by three Argentine experts to Mexico was also arranged at that time. The matter was not negotiated through the Foreign Ministry, which denies all knowledge of the matter.

It seems this official exchange between governments was not the only one by the Argentine military. A group of retired military officers is allegedly advising their Mexican counterparts independently. Argentine Government officials insist that these military officers could be part of what has been called "unoccupied manpower."

Official sources denied knowing the "details" of this aspect of "Argentine cooperation." They said, however, they are convinced "there are many professionals in whom Mexico could be interested."

Menem Reacts to Report on Military in Mexico

PY0212140794 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1215 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem today termed as "totally irresponsible" a newspaper report that referred to the alleged participation of Argentine military personnel in the fight against the Zapatist Army of National Liberation (EZLN) guerrilla group.

"There are no Argentines, at least officially, advising the security forces" of Mexico, Menem said at the metropolitan airport after returning to the country from Mexico, where he participated in the inaugural of his colleague, Ernesto Zedillo.

Pampa Plane Withdrawn From U.S. Bidding

PY0212211494 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] The Argentine "Pampa 2000" training plane has been withdrawn from the bidding organized by the U.S. Navy and Air Force due to "technical deficiencies," EFE reported yesterday, citing U.S. Defense Department sources.

The bidding for the Joint Pilot Airborne Training System (JPATS), organized by the U.S. Navy and Air Force, is aimed at selecting a training plane for military pilots. Some 711 units will eventually be required.

According to the letter sent to Vought Aircraft on 22 November, the Pampa 2000 presented "certain technical deficiencies during the evaluation flights, and was withdrawn from competition."

Vought Aircraft Vice President Steve Yarbrough issued a communique which states: "We are surprised and cannot understand the reason that prompted this decision."

"We continue to think that the Pampa 2000 is safe. It upholds the requirements for training student pilots ideally and meets all JPATS demands," Yarbrough said.

The other models still in competition are the "Supertucano" (Brazil), the "Pilatus" (Switzerland), the "Citation" (Cessna, United States), the "T-Bird II" (Italy), the "S-211A" (Italy), and the "Ranger 2000" (Germany).

Menem Comments

PY0212220694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1445 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem noted today that he believes that the rejection of the Argentine-made Pampa 2000 plane in an international bid called by the United States for the purchase of training planes was prompted by the fact that "it is too sophisticated" for training maneuvers.

Menem emphasized, notwithstanding, that the plane's rejection in the bid "is not final" because the company that presented the Argentine-made plane "does not accept the arguments" raised in rejecting it. He announced that his government would file "the appropriate claims."

According to Washington-datelined reports, the U.S. Air Force and Navy vetoed the Pampa 2000's participation in the bid because it experienced "technical defects" during the test flights, a decision that was reportedly conveyed to the company that presented the plane.

Showing his knowledge of aircraft, Menem explained: "The point is that it has some hydraulic mechanisms that make things difficult for U.S. training as far as plane control is concerned. It is too sophisticated for a training plane."

Concerning the possibility of the government filing a claim with the U.S. Armed Forces, the president was cautious. He emphasized: "We will wait to see what happens." Nevertheless, Menem confirmed that his administration would file "the appropriate claims" because he believes "the Pampa plane's performance was far better than that of other planes" that are participating in this bid.

Security Forces To Join Efforts on AMIA Case

PY0212213894 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0016 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Dec (TELAM)—Judge Jose Galeano, who is investigating the attack on the AMIA [Israeli-Argentine Mutual Association], today agreed to carry out a joint investigation with the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE], the Community Security and Protection Secretariat, and the three security forces.

A high-ranking source linked to the investigation told TELAM: "A joint effort was proposed and accepted. The judge will now be the only person to release any information on the case."

Galeano met this afternoon with SIDE chief Hugo Anzorreguy; Andres Antonietti, chief of the Community Security and Protection Secretariat; Federal Police Chief Adrian Pelacchi; Border Guard Chief Timar Musumeci; and Coast Guard Chief Jorge Maggi.

The meeting followed the implementation of Decree No. 2024, which instructs security forces to "jointly increase their efforts and to take the necessary measures within their terms of reference to clarify the terrorist attack."

The source said: "The judge will release information when he considers it opportune, and all others linked to the investigation will limit themselves to helping to clarify" the case.

The meeting was held between 1700 and 1900. According to the Federal Police chief, the objective was "to optimize the use of all the resources" to clarify the attack on 18 July against the AMIA. The source told TELAM: "It will be good to show that we are jointly concentrated on the investigation, and that efforts will now not be isolated."

The source also revealed that "there will be periodic meetings of the people who met today. They will not be able to delegate this responsibility; the heads of each organization will participate in the meetings."

As of this first meeting, the judge will head the investigation with all the state organizations subordinated to the needs of the court. Within this framework, the Security Secretariat will be charged with the coordination and the other organizations, including the SIDE, will conduct the investigation.

Bolivia

'Plan of Action' To Be Proposed at Miami Summit

PY0312022594 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 26 Nov 94 p A3

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz—At the upcoming Miami summit Bolivia will propose a "plan of action" based on three great "ideas": the strengthening of the democratic system; the economic integration of the hemisphere; and, lastly, sustainable development. It was officially disclosed that the "zero option" will not be proposed during the hemispherical summit, as some sectors have speculated.

The aforementioned three points were explained by Jaime Aparicio, under secretary for international relations, who traveled to the United States on 25 November for a meeting with his counterparts from the hemisphere and from the Rio Group to coordinate the documents and subjects that will be raised during the "Miami Summit" 9-10 December.

President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who has already asked for congressional approval to leave national territory, will attend the hemispheric summit. Regarding these significant subjects, there will be specific paragraphs in then plan of action on the fight against corruption, terrorism, drug trafficking; aid to civilian society; democracy; the strengthening of the OAS as a tool to strengthen democracy; human rights; and the important subject of free trade," he said. [no opening quotation marks as published]

This last subject was mentioned by Aparicio because it represents, he said, the basic idea to gradually establish a free trade zone in the hemisphere, starting in Canada in the north down to Argentina in the south. Aparicio said that this document will be discussed in Washington by the main authorities of the foreign ministries of the continent.

Work will begin next week on the basis of these ideas, specifically with the Rio Group and then with the United States, the Caribbean, and the Central American countries. The results of these preliminary meetings will be contained in a document that will be discussed by the presidents attending the Miami summit, stated Aparicio.

FELCN Chief 'Pessimistic' About Drug Fight

PY0312015194 La Paz HOY in Spanish 27 Nov 94 p 6

[Quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] (ANF)—General Renato Lopez Leyton, commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN), has emphasized that Bolivia will not win the fight against the powerful drug trafficking structure. Leyton made this statement a few hours after the president promised before the nation that the stigmatized Cochabamba tropical area will stop being a "red zone" of conflict" through the "Chapare institutionalization" operation.

With a strongly pessimistic yet firm attitude—as if he were predicting that we Bolivians must coexist with drug trafficking—Gen. Leyton emphasized that the production, trafficking, and consumption of illegal drugs in Bolivia "will not vanish" because it is backed by multinational interests and powerful capital.

Sandro Calvani, an official with the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), warned that the "third war" against drug trafficking is becoming increasingly difficult, as the mafias and illegal groups of power have infiltrated the various social strata.

Despite this complex situation, Gen. Leyton reported that the units under his command are doing their best to prevent drug trafficking from affecting the core of the socioeconomic structure of democracy and of the democratically established branches of government.

Leyton said that while the executive branch and Congress are trying to design an antinarcotics policy based on a national consensus, police and military units are undertaking positive actions within the "New Dawn" and "Border Crunch" operations, and within the operation announced by the president for the institutionalization of the red zones in Chapare.

According to appraisals by the Statistics Department of the Government Ministry, some 4.5 metric tons of cocaine in various stages of chemical treatment were seized and burned over a two-month period.

However, eradication results have not improved. Up until two months ago, Direco [National Directorate for Agricultural Reconversion] units had managed to eradicate no more than 3,100 hectares of illegal coca plantations, causing a $15-million loss that the U.S. Government should reimburse to support the balance of trade.

Brazil

Amorin Urges Ratification of GATT Accords

PY0212204294 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 1 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi from Brasilia]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Celso Amorim will on 10 December meet with the bloc of party leaders of the Chamber of Deputies to uphold the arguments in favor of ratification of the Uruguay Round of the GATT agreements, a process that has been hindered by the opposition parties PDT [Democratic Labor Party], PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party], PT [Workers Party), and PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil].

The minister's briefing will be the government's last attempt to convince lawmakers to ratify the agreements this year, before 15 December, as is expected by Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio Oliveira, who invited Amorim. The text of the Uruguay Round agreements was submitted to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies in June, almost two months after Brazil endorsed the agreements in the middle of April in Marrakech. The big pile of some 700 pages had to be translated into Portuguese.

Amorim said that during the transition period, which will extend between January 1995 and 2000, Brazil will make profits ranging from $2 to $8 billion thanks to international trade growth, which will be promoted by a tariff reduction ranging from 36 to 40 percent for products manufactured in developed countries, the elimination of nontariff barriers, and a reduction in agricultural subsidies.

If Brazil fails to ratify the Uruguay Round agreements "we will not benefit from the low tariffs adopted in other countries," Amorim said. Besides, he went on, "Brazil has engaged in multilateral liberalization within Mercosur [Common Market of the South], which will allow the four Mercosur members to raise their tariffs up to the 35 percent ceiling established during the Uruguay Round of talks."

With some 80 votes in the Chamber of Deputies, the opposition will be unable to veto ratification of the agreements if the other parties manage to make the quorum at the session. This is the problem, because rural bloc members and leftist lawmakers are dissatisfied with the commitments that Brazil assumed within GATT, as PT bloc economic adviser Jose Carlos Pereira Peliano put it. "We want to prevent immediate ratification and want to change some points," he said.

The main difficulty claimed by leftist sectors is the Trips intellectual property rights agreement which, according to the PT, "will be a step backwards." Peliano admitted, however, that it is better than the bill currently under discussion in the Senate. Amorim claims that the commitments that Brazil assumed in this area are compatible with the model for industrial development and replacement of imports. "The Trips agreement has safeguards, and does not compel us to issue patents for organisms that already exist in nature, only for those that were designed in laboratories," he said.

PFL [Liberal Front Party] Deputy Ney Lopes, the party deputy leader in the Chamber of Deputies, who drew up a bill replacing the one on intellectual property rights, has said that Congress "cannot ignore the subject, because otherwise Brazil will be left outside the process." He added: "The topic is decisive for governability under Fernando Henrique Cardoso." The problem is that lawmakers, in general, are not fully aware of the contents of the agreements.

The Argentine Senate was due to vote on the Uruguay Round agreements during the afternoon of 30 November. The bills will then be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. According to Buenos Aires diplomatic sources, there will be a problem ratifying it before Christmas. Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez told this newspaper that the Paraguayan Congress has already ratified the GATT agreements.

Cardoso Choice of Malan as Finance Minister Confirmed

PY0212202794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2310 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Report by Marta Salomon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 1 Dec (AE)—President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso today completed an operation designed to appoint the finance minister of his future administration by having lunch with incumbent Finance Minister Ciro Gomes. Concerned about speculation that could have adverse effects on the Real Plan, Cardoso has asked Malan to be his finance minister to make sure that the economic stabilization plan will not depart from its course. By lunching with Gomes, Cardoso has sent signals to the market that Gomes will remain a full-fledged minister until 31 December.

Cardoso coordinated this operation with President Itamar Franco, to whom he confirmed that Malan would be the finance minister during a one-hour meeting held on the evening of 30 November. Cardoso has thus kept his promise to implement a smooth transition. A minister who is close to Cardoso said: "He would not do anything that would irritate Franco." The source added: "Franco reacted very well."

What had not been coordinated was the 30 November leak of Malan's appointment, which was widely covered today by the print media. Cardoso said he had done nothing to stimulate speculation, that he would not hasten the announcement of his cabinet, and that no appointment has yet been confirmed. He said: "This is Gutenberg's cabinet: It has been the doing and undoing of the press." There is a clear reason behind Cardoso's caution: Any indication that the position of incumbent Finance Minister Ciro Gomes has been weakened would do no good to the Real Plan.

Gomes' position has in fact been strengthened by his having lunch today with the president-elect. It was an event similar to one 22 days ago, when photographers were called into Planalto Palace to take pictures of Cardoso, Franco, and Gomes as Cardoso was taking charge again of the economy and was starting the process that concluded today.

Despite his ostensible denial of Malan's appointment, advisers have noted that Cardoso's mood has improved following the conclusion of the finance minister appointment process. An adviser said: "He is visibly relieved."

Rio Slum Residents Raise Torture Charges Against Army

PY0212155094 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Nov 94 Section 1 p 10

[Article by Sergio Torres in Rio de Janeiro]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three residents of the Borel slum (in the Tijuca district, in northern Rio de Janeiro) yesterday told FOLHA that they had been tortured and beaten by Army troops, plainclothes policemen, and military police personnel during the occupation of the Borel slum on 25 November.

Yesterday Army spokesman General Gilberto Serra phoned Dom Luciano Mendes de Almeida, president of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, to ask him to help monitor the Rio operation. The Army wants to have a church official pointing out cases where unlawful actions have been committed.

Father Olinto Pegoraro of the Sao Sebastiao parish (in the upper part of the slum) charged that nearly 15 slum residents were tortured in the sacristy of the church during the operation.

Late in the afternoon, five of these residents pressed charges at the 19th precinct (Tijuca), but they were referred to the Forensics Institute for a medical examination. Police officer Oswaldo Cupello said: "They all claimed to have been tortured by Army personnel."

Carlos Eduardo Rodrigues da Silva, an 18-year-old soccer player, said that personnel of the Army Paratroop Brigade had beaten him with clubs.

Silva said he had been attacked inside the church. He said military and plainclothes policemen kicked and slapped him.

Ismael Soares Rodrigues, a 27-year-old peddler, said that plainclothes and military policemen had used an electric prod on him and that they had submerged him in a water tank.

Rodrigues said he has been unable to walk since 25 November. He said he has pains in his neck, chest, and back. There were traces of rope marks on his wrists. He had scratches on his shoulder and bruises on his neck, legs, and chest.

Antonio Isidoro Neto, 72, the owner of the shack where Rodrigues was attacked, confirmed his story. "I was left without water because they virtually used it up to submerge him and four other young men in the tank."

Businessman Wanderlei Batista, 27, said he was coming down the hill when he was caught by Army troops. He said he was taken to the church. "Military policemen and plainclothesmen pushed me to the ground and kicked me. Army personnel were watching, but they did not prevent the attack." He had purple marks on his back.

The house of 47-year-old dressmaker Natividade dos Santos was allegedly stormed by the Army. Crying, she pointed to a broken TV set, destroyed furniture, and torn mattresses. She said: "They have now created new policemen dressed in green fatigues who are doing the same things the old policemen always did."

Father Pegoraro pointed to blood stains on the floor of the sacristy. He said the blood came from the tortured people. He said: "The church was occupied. Not even I was allowed to enter the church. I could only hear the screams."

The following people were sent to the Forensics Institute: Carlos Eduardo Rodrigues da Silva; Alex Sandro Correa, 18; Ivanildo Batista Carvalho, 17; Francisco Jose de Oliveira, 25; and Marcio Coelho de Souza.

Army troops withdrew from the Borel slums early yesterday.

War College Head Wants Army Withdrawal

PY0212160194 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 94 p C3

[Article by Marcelo Faga]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rio de Janeiro—Brigadier Sergio Ferolla, commander of the War College (ESG), yesterday called for "the withdrawal, as soon as possible," of the Army troops from the slums of Rio de Janeiro. He said he wants to spare the military institution the loss of face this action might entail "because military personnel are not trained to serve as policemen." The same concern was conveyed earlier by Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena and General Roberto Canara Senna, the coordinator of the Rio Operation directed against crime.

Noting the risk that an escalation of actions could make a "smooth withdrawal" unfeasible, he cited as an example the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Although refusing to give credence to reports of torture during the occupation of the Borel slum, Ferolla admitted that "distortions" may have occurred, taking into account the fact that the troops are not prepared to undertake this type of mission.

Ferolla said: "It is like walking on a razor's edge." He noted that military personnel are "trained to destroy." He added that in the case of the Rio Operation against crime, "one does not know who the enemy is and one cannot fully act as though this is a war." In his opinion, the Armed Forces have already fulfilled their objective of "showing that they can impose their authority."

Future Rio Defense Chief Wants Army To Stay

PY0212232694 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Dec 94 p 16

[Interview with Brigadier General Euclimar da Silva, future Rio de Janeiro defense secretary, by Sandra Brasil in Brasilia on 30 November]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Brasil] How do you intend to combat organized crime in Rio de Janeiro?

[Da Silva] The first thing will be to guarantee a military presence either through the Military, Civilian, or Federal Police, and with the cooperation of the Army. Another aspect will be to attend to social needs. Misery in certain areas has led to this situation of criminality that has come about in such an unheard-of manner. Military action on its own will not solve anything.

[Brasil] Do you think that the current emergency anticrime action will effectively end on 31 December, as established in the agreement?

[Da Silva] I think it would be good if the agreement were extended. However, this is a political decision between the state and the federal government. The agreement should be extended until the police attain better conditions to assume their responsibility on their own. The Army cannot remain here forever.

[Brasil] How long will it take until the criminality rate drops to an acceptable level in Rio de Janeiro?

[Da Silva] I must first learn about the Armed Forces' plans, mainly what will happen from now on in Rio de Janeiro. The soldiers will have to be replaced by teachers, medical doctors, hygiene instructors, and social workers. I believe that the intimidating police action against the criminals should last six months at the most. It should continue in January, even if it is without direct Armed Forces participation. This first stage will allow a geographical reintegration of the slums into the state of Rio.

[Brasil] If the agreement is not renewed, will you ask for Armed Forces cooperation?

[Da Silva] Society has asked the municipality, state, and federal governments to help in this effort. I see no difference. Cooperation will continue even if the agreement is not renewed. In that case the Armed Forces could help with intelligence, training, logistics, weapons, and ammunition support. The government may request Armed Forces support for specific operations at any moment.

[Brasil] Rio de Janeiro District Attorney Gustavo Tepedino said that the Army is committing excesses, including torture. What do you think of this?

[Da Silva] The Army has a mission against organized crime. The objective of its mission is to reestablish order. The objective of the Army is not to confiscate cocaine; it has a broader objective. Any action that could harm individual rights will be punished by the Army with all the weight of the law.

[Brasil] In the course of a month-old operation the Army has not arrested any important criminal or organized crime boss. What do you intend to do?

[Da Silva] Use the intelligence and information services. I must intensify the action of these services in the state police, with the help of the federal forces. We must make Rio de Janeiro safer. We must stop these incidents in which children die as a consequence of stray bullets. Individual safety must be improved, and that is what the Army is trying to do. [passage omitted]

Marines, Army Conduct Operations

PY0212193994 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Dec 94 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Less than 10 days after leaving the Dende Hill shantytown on Ilha do Governador, about 100 Marines returned to conduct a reconnaissance operation. Aboard jeeps and trucks, the marines patrolled the shantytown streets for almost six hours. The Marines conducted blitzkrieg operations at some access points. They positioned themselves as if to occupy the area but then returned to their trucks. In the Ramos shantytown, in the Mare complex, Army soldiers conducted an operation that lasted for almost 3 hours during which they demanded identification papers, but only from suspicious looking people.

An Army patrol arrested three people carrying cocaine at the Andarai Hill shantytown. At the Oduvaldo Cozzi overpass in Maracana, Army personnel got out of their truck so an Army photographer could take a picture. They then returned to the Army Police barracks on Rua Barao de Mesquita in Tijuca.

The largest operation was that conducted at the Dende shantytown. It started at 1200. The Marines occupied positions at the corners of Cali and Baviera Streets, which became support bases with radio equipment and a detachment of at least 40 fully equipped men. At least two trucks stayed there while the rest patrolled the shantytown. The Marines stopped several times at 210 Paranapua Avenue. Once, they ran up the slope to a house and then came back.

During the entire operation, no one was stopped, cars drove through normally. By the end of the afternoon, when all the Marines had withdrawn, officers reported that the operation would continue throughout the night with soldiers patrolling the shantytown.

The Army operation lasted about three hours in Ramos. Serafim Costa, coordinator of the Lion 13 Foundation, said the entire operation was calm and that only suspicious people were stopped. Costa said area residents and those living in the nearby Roquete Pinto shantytown are used to the presence of soldiers. The Army has been occupying the shantytown since last year and even offering medical and dental services.

First Brazilian Ombudsman Installed

PY0212210294 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the 1988 Constitution, problems between citizens and the government will have a mediator: the post of public defender or ombudsman has been created.

The first Brazilian ombudsman is Antonio Jurandir Porto Rosa, who was installed on 1 December. His mandate is 2 years, which can be extended for 2 more years. The ombudsman will mediate in problems between citizens and the federal government, guaranteeing the rights of the individual in court cases.

This position of ombudsman was created by the 1988 Constitution and was regulated by Complementary Law No. 80 of 1994. The ombudsman will provide total legal assistance to poor citizens in cases heard by the federal, military, electoral, and labor courts.

Porto Rosa reported that the ombudsman has administrative autonomy and independency despite being dependent on the presidency of the Republic.

Chile

Frei Returns From Mexico, Views Meeting With Castro

PY0212200494 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

["Special report" from Santiago International Airport by reporter Jose Ignacio Aguirre—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Right on schedule, the Chilean Air Force Boeing plane that transported President Eduardo Frei to Mexico City to attend the inauguration of new Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo returned today at 1310.

Following the resumption of his presidential duties, President Frei said the new Mexican president has reaffirmed his support for Chile joining NAFTA. He also referred to his meeting with Fidel Castro on Chilean-Cuban relations.

[Begin Frei recording] Under no circumstances can I meet with a chief of state—and Fidel Castro is also very careful on this—to impose points of view or to hear inflexible positions. Each country has its own system, its own political system, and we only talked about bilateral relations. That is what the meeting was about, to assess the development of bilateral relations and how to enhance them. No one can impose any theory or specific proposal. [end recording]

President Frei will return to the Santiago International Airport at 1700 today to leave for Coihaique, where tomorrow he will head his third ministerial council session in the regions.

Ecuador Interested in Arms Company Production

PY0212210494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Nov 94 p C5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo yesterday expressed interest in cooperating with the weapons manufacturing process of the Chilean Army Ordnance, Famae.

Gallardo is making a three-day official visit to Santiago. He said Ecuador views Famae "as part of a cooperation plan between two friendly countries."

Famae has carried out some minor contracts with the Ecuadoran Armed Forces, especially involving light explosives. Among other products, the Army Ordnance produces a large variety of weapons—among them handguns, artillery rockets, anti-aircraft systems, armored vehicles, and all types of ammunition.

The Ecuadoran defense minister termed excellent the relations between the two countries and said that bilateral defense trade is continuous and strengthened day by day.

He also praised the Chilean Armed Forces, stating that he had the opportunity to observe how they fulfill their security role and "cooperate with national development."

Gallardo declined to comment on current relations between his country and Peru, a border nation with which there have been several military conflicts. "It would not be appropriate for me to comment now on this situation, but I will refer to the (Ecuadoran) friendship with the Chilean Armed Forces and people and to the cooperation which is continuous," Gallardo said. [passage omitted]

Committee Approves Debate on Reforms

PY0212171194 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Nov 94 p C3

[FBIS Translated Text] Valparaiso—With the majority votes from the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] and the rejection of the opposition, the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Constitutional, Legislative and Judicial affairs approved the proposal for a broad debate on the constitutional reforms bill. The main issues of this bill are the elimination of designated senators and the expeditious drafting of laws.

After a brief debate, the committee voted on the entire government bill. It was approved by seven CPPD deputies (four from the DC [Christian Democratic Party]; two from the PS [Socialist Party]; and one from the PPD [Party for Democracy]) while the six opposition representatives (four from RN [National Renewal] and two from the UDI [Independent Democratic Union]) voted against it.

UDI and RN deputies believe the government proposals "are dead" because they will be rejected at the plenum session. This means the government will lack the necessary quorum for the approval of the bill—three-fifths of all deputies (72). Genaro Arriagada, secretary general of the presidency, has said, however, that the plenum session might approve the holding of a broad debate.

Arriagada said that through the congressional committee's approval, the administration and the CPPD wish to reassert their firm willingness to modernize the country.

The executive branch believes this encompasses both the economy and production, and also political-institutional amendments and the implementation of social reforms aimed at achieving more equity.

Arriagada announced that this week the CPPD will debate municipal reform, which it believes is an urgent issue. He added that the administration intends to submit a municipal amendment far in advance of the municipal elections so that the debate "will not be affected by the election campaign."

He confirmed the administration's commitment which he described, saying: "Just as it intends to work throughout its government term toward modernizing the national production apparatus—and the entire country—with the ultimate objective of achieving equity, during its second term the CPPD will relentlessly discuss political- institutional issues."

Arriagada stated that no development can be achieved without justice or equity. He said: "If we want to develop we must be fair."

He added that there is no development without a sufficiently orderly political and institutional system that seeks to impede corruption; to perfect democracy; to allow a better functioning of political parties; and to establish regulations toward a clean relationship between political power and money. Arriagada said: "These are the subjects we will discuss."

He said he hopes the plenum session will also approve the holding of a debate because only two more votes are needed. He said: "There is full agreement with opposition parties on many issues, even regarding the issue of designated senators."

Arriagada answered a question, saying the administration will not approve any amendment bill without the established quorum of three-fifths "so we should discuss this issue on the basis of the terms established by the government."

Commenting on opposition charges that the constitutional reform is "a maneuver" of the administration because it is aware it will be rejected, Arriagada said: "Even if a bill is rejected, it is still a worthy cause if it keeps alive certain ideas and values."

He added: "We believe full democracy is an indisputable principle. Even though we may lack votes at a given time, this does not mean that we will cease to propose these amendments. CPPD members have been among the minority many times but this was never an excuse for not continuing to struggle for our beliefs. It would be completely inexcusable not to promote the ideals of social justice and full democracy; principles the opposition does not share with us, now that we are in power."

Opposition members on the committee reasserted that they understood their position to reject the idea of a broad debate. They said the administration is promoting "a maneuver" by mixing positive reforms for the country with unsuitable amendments, all in the same bag.

Deputy Alberto Cardemil (RN) said this is being done "to distract the attention and the efforts of Congress and public opinion for a long time in a completely irresponsible fashion."

Cardemil, Alberto Espina (RN), and Andres Chadwick (UDI) said "the reforms are dead" because the opposition will reject the idea of holding a debate in the plenum session. The CPPD requires a three-fifths quorom for approving a debate in the plenum session, but it does not have it.

Chadwick said this is the result of the way the administration has handled the constitutional reform issue. He said: "From the very start, it was a grave mistake to have insisted on submitting a 'package.' In so doing, they conditioned the approval of some issues with others on which no agreement has been achieved. This has led the government to a political failure."

He added that there is no possibility for the opposition to vote in favor of holding a broad debate in a plenum session because the government has insisted on voting on the entire "package" and not allowed the possibility of voting on isolated issues.

Espina said the CPPD never intended for these constitutional reforms to be approved. He said there is agreement on 80 percent of the issues and disagreement on the remaining 20 percent. He said: "The administration has managed, however, to put them all together. This clearly shows it is not interested in approving the constitutional reform because it has no political will to increase controls or expedite the drafting of laws."

Colombia

Samper Hails U.S. Decision To Reestablish Border Radar

PA0412025894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1856 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Dec (DPA)—Colombian President Ernesto Samper today said he is glad that border radars have been reestablished by the U.S. Government to help defend against narcotrafficking.

"This is a decision we welcome, because for several months now our borders have been completely unprotected, and we all know that narcotrafficking is an international problem," Samper stated.

During a ceremony in which land deeds were handed out to 350 peasant families in Lerida in central Tolima Department, Samper said, "cocaine paste, which is used to process the drug, was being brought into the country by air."

Calling it "a good measure," the Colombian president said he hopes with the reestablishment of the radars "border trafficking of cocaine will be significantly reduced."

He added, "We had asked the U.S. Government to reestablish the use of the radars because Colombia does not want narcotrafficking to flourish in its territory."

The Colombian president said: "This assistance is fundamental, because we are fighting narcotrafficking and, at the same time, are commiting resources to the people to discourage them from engaging in this illegal practice, but we need international solidarity."

Samper's government has been implementing a series of investment programs known as the "Social Leap" among various sectors of society in an attempt to close the gap between rich and poor Colombians.

Today, Samper implemented a plan that will turn over more than 1 million hectares to 70,000 low-income peasant families. On turning over deeds to the first 350 families, the Colombian president said, "not only the security of food, but also the security of the nation's peace is at stake in the countryside."

He added: "We do not want the peasants to have to resort to cultivating illegal crops because of a lack of resources. We want to give them opportunities."

Foreign Minister Praises Decision

PA0412194594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 94

[Report by Rosario Melendez from the "Cripton Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Colombian Government expressed its satisfaction with the U.S. decision to resume operation of the radars established in our country.

[Begin Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo recording, identifed by caption] It is all about establishing the conditions for the radars to begin to operate again. These radars had been operating at one time but were interrupted because of internal circumstances in the United States, which is what has been solved and now allows a return to the normal operation of the radars, as well as to the continued exchange of information obtained through the radars. [end recording]

Foreign Minister on Miami Summit Expectations

PA0412193994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1745 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 4 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Government today expressed its confidence that the Summit of the Americas, scheduled for Miami next week, will open Colombia's access to NAFTA.

Interviewed by a local radio station, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo said that he hopes that in the Miami meeting there will be regional integration in the fight against drug trafficking

"The idea is to commit the U.S. Government to free trade, because one cannot live in a world in which free trade is mentioned and free trade agreements are signed, but only for some countries," he said.

He added that in the continental meeting, which excludes Cuba, convened by President Bill Clinton, "clear ideas should emerge on what the true U.S. attitude is regarding access to the U.S. treaty."

"We have expectations regarding President Clinton's commitment to open the trade agreement because it is not clear which countries can enter, and there are many that would like to have the security of knowing they can do so," he said.

Colombia, which signed a trade agreement with Venezuela and Mexico (a NAFTA member with Canada and the United States) has stated its interest in being part of NAFTA but has not had a formal reply.

Pardo expressed his wish that from the continental Miami meeting—to be held from 9 to 11 December—"a mandate emerges for the governments to work out an agreement that bans the laundering of property and money earned from drug trafficking."

"It would be a good idea for a date to be set for the agreement, that a meeting be set to agree on the final text, and that it be signed," the Colombian foreign minister said.

EU Reduces Preferential Customs Tariffs for Local Products

PA0212193594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Nov 94 p 8A

[Report by Francisco Celis Alban]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombia received good news and bad news as a result of the latest meeting held by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the European Union Member States (Coreper) on 23 November in Brussels.

The good news is that the preferential customs tariffs established by the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) in the EU for the industrial products of Colombia and the Andean countries were extended for 10 more years beginning in 1995. This fact represents a commercial success for the country. The bad news is that the scope of the preferential tariffs for agricultural and fishing products was severely limited. In the case of flowers, the import ceiling for Colombian carnations is now set at the largest amount imported in the last three years.

On the other hand, Colombian prawns and tuna were excluded from the preferential customs tariffs adopted by the EU to support those Andean countries that are committed to the fight against drug trafficking.

A Colombian source close to the Coreper, who asked to remain anonymous, told EL TIEMPO that this decision threatens to bankrupt a production sector that has been exporting $65 million annually to the EU.

The reason why France contested the customs tariffs support given to Colombia is to protect prawn fishermen from French Guiana.

Another source from the fishing sector, who also asked to remain anonymous, said that "the tuna industry has invested at least 50 billion pesos, generating at least 20,000 new jobs for poor people from the two coasts, as a result of the preferential customs tariffs obtained four years ago."

"It is unbelievable that a country as friendly as France headed the initiative to eliminate the preferential customs tariffs for these Colombian products," the source pointed out.

According to the same source, this industry asked the president of the Republic, the foreign relations minister, and the Foreign Trade Ministry to intervene at the highest level before the EU and prevent the approval of the initiative, adding that the sector hopes that the president and the other government officials issue a statement for the EU.

"It is very serious and inconceivable that as a Colombian industry begins to make inroads at the international markets, after many efforts and large investments, the governments of the developed countries themselves are dealing a mortal blow to Colombia."

The source predicted that the move reversing the aid granted to Colombia for its fight against drug trafficking will force the fishing industry to close its doors on and fire thousands of poor people who might probably end up growing such raw materials as coca and poppy needed to process drugs.

"The situation that the attitude of the European governments may elicit is aberrant," the source concluded.

Military Forces Renew Commitments to Peace, Security

PA0212222394 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Nov 94 p 6A

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The military forces yesterday renewed, through Commander General General Camilo Zuniga, their commitment to enhance peace, stay away from absolute power, and be a constant guarantee for national security.

Gen. Zuniga spoke to the country about these commitments a few minutes after Defense Minister Fernando Botero Zea recognized his authority over the Armed Forces. Botero yesterday told all military personnel they must obey Gen. Zuniga "during their times of service and afterward."

Zuniga later recognized the authority of the new Army commander, Major Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro; the new Navy commander, Vice Admiral Holdan Delgado; and the new Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Hernando Gil.

During his speech, Gen. Zuniga said that "the military forces under my command, as a single voice, are again renewing, through me, all the sacred commitments made since the beginning of our history."

He said that the military forces constitute barriers for the guerrillas and drug traffickers and that he hopes that those who disturb national order will avail themselves of the government's peace proposal.

"The military forces must confront all those who continue to disturb the constitutional order because of their stubbornness and who we hope will understand the kindness of the call for unlimited peace made by the government and inspired by the great spirit of freedom, democracy, and justice," the high-ranking officer underscored.

Zuniga emphasized that the military forces are subordinated to the will of the government "and authorities, all of whom agree with their guidance and programs." He also said that the troops have been "detached from the whims of absolute power and have considered this power a result of decisions made by their fellow countrymen at the voting booths."

The military forces, he maintained, constitute barriers "for the bad children who want to do away with peace in the countryside at any cost by resorting to crime and brandishing an unbridled ambition and replace it with anxiety and chaos, which trigger the emergence of hapless individuals who later traffic illegal substances and who deserve the disapproval and repudiation of those who consider themselves conscientious and civilized."

Meanwhile, following a military ceremony, new Army Commander Maj. Gen. Bedoya explained that during his term, the troops will continue to combat all those who generate violence "with the force granted to us by the arms and the laws of the Republic." This is what the high-ranking officer said as he was questioned on the possibility of the Army lowering its guard on the guerrillas in light of a possible negotiations process.

Bedoya also pointed out that "the National Army will continue to defend and protect human rights as it has always done." [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Duran Ballen Confirms Attendance at Miami Summit

PA0212232094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2102 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 2 Dec (DPA)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen confirmed today he will attend the Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Miami on 9 December despite his delicate state of health following a backbone operation four weeks ago.

Doctors have recommended that the 73-year-old Ecuadoran president not attend the summit. They have prescribed full rest for 10 weeks following the operation, which was performed in Washington on 7 November.

Nevertheless, Presidency Information Secretary Enrique Proano reported Duran Ballen "feels well and sees no reason not to attend such an important hemispheric meeting."

In his only reference to the Summit of the Americas last week upon returning from Washington, Duran Ballen said President Clinton should make a specific announcement on the creation of a continental free trade zone, although he denied Ecuador is ready to present a proposal in this regard.

Given both the illness and the long absence of the president as well as the change of the foreign minister in early October, Ecuador has not yet announced its official position for the Summit of the Americas. A declaration is expected to be issued in the next few days, however, following today's confirmation of Duran Ballen's participation.

To Stress Free Trade

PA0312195294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1631 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By "special NOTIMEX correspondent" Luis Onofa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Since Ecuador is facing obstacles in exporting some of its products to U.S. and European markets, free trade will be the fundamental issue Ecuador intends to bring up during the Summit of the Americas.

President Sixto Duran Ballen and his closest government advisers have been stressing this subject in all the international forums they have participated in recently.

In addressing a forum on social projects throughout Latin America, Duran Ballen pointed out that there would be no further need for the industrialized nations to continue providing assistance to the developing countries if they practiced genuine free trade and paid these nations a fair price for their goods.

At any rate, the president recently expressed his "concern about the United States not giving the issue the same priority" as it does to other issues.

Corruption and drug trafficking are the main issues of the agenda prepared by President Bill Clinton's administration for the 9-11 December hemispheric summit in Miami.

The Summit of the Americas, sponsored by Bill Clinton's administration, will gather the heads of state of 34 nations of the American continent, with the exception of Cuba, which was not invited.

Duran Ballen expressed confidence that the changes place in the U.S. Congress, which have made the Republicans the majority party, will encourage President Clinton to take concrete steps to include free trade.

Currently, Ecuador is confronting obstacles in exporting its banana and its tuna production to EU markets, as well as its rose production to the United States.

Bananas are Ecuador's second highest revenue-producing item, after crude oil. At the same time, roses are also one of the new products the country seeks to place in the world markets to cut its dependence on crude oil sales.

International free trade is one of the theses the Duran Ballen government has been defending since it came to office, when it condemned the U.S. Government's approval of the Torricelli Bill aimed at toughening the trade embargo against Cuba.

With respect to the Cuban problem, the Duran Ballen administration has not made any pronouncements with respect to its inclusion in the Miami Summit.

However, in commenting on the U.S. economic embargo to that Caribbean island, Duran Ballen defended the "right of all nations to free determination" and expressed hope that someday "full democracy will reign" in that country.

This past September, then Foreign Minister Diego Paredes visited Havana, the first official visit to Cuba in the past two years by an Ecuadoran foreign minister.

After that first contact, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina traveled to Quito on an official visit.

As a result of these two visits, Cuba and Ecuador recently announced the signing of a bilateral agreement of a limited scope regulating trade and investments in both countries.

This means that future relations, so far limited to periodic sales of crude oil to Cuba and the purchase of Cuban rum by Ecuador, could intensify.

With regard to the drug trafficking problem, not long ago, Ecuador reiterated its support for the Rio Group's proposal to include the possibility of an Inter-American convention against drug trafficking in the agenda.

Ecuador has signed several bilateral and multilateral agreements to combat drug consumption and illegal trafficking, some of which date as far back as 1961.

With the United States alone, Ecuador has signed 11 agreements that include one aimed at preventing money-laundering from drug trafficking, signed in August 1992, shortly before then President Rodrigo Borja's term ended.

Paraguay

Salvadoran Defense Minister Begins Official Visit

PY0212201094 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Forces of Latin America will always have an important role in their respective countries, apart from internal threats. This was said by Brigadier General Humberto Corado, the El Salvadoran defense minister, who arrived on 1 December.

The high-ranking Salvadoran military chief was met at the Silvio Petirossi Airport by Colonel Salvador Amado Cabral, director of ceremonies of the Armed Forces.

The distinguished visitor said that although most threats have disappeared, this does not imply the Armed Forces will not continue to be an important factor in national development. On the contrary, they provide faithful support that will help society to progress and to improve living conditions.

The military officer maintained that if harmony, security, and stability do not exist, it is difficult to achieve national objectives. "I believe the Armed Forces play an important role," the Salvadoran said.

This morning he is scheduled to lay a wreath at the National Heroes Pantheon, and at 0900 he will meet with Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche. Later he will present an acknowledgement plaque to Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit and to General Cesar Lino Oviedo, and then visit the Command and Staff School, where the visitor was enrolled in a staff course.

Says Military Must be 'Apolitical'

PY0212213694 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Salvadoran Defense Minister Brigadier General Humberto Corado Figueroa has stated that the Armed Forces are part of a country's national power, and as such, must be apolitical and refrain from engaging in partisan politics in the discharge of their duties.

Brig. Gen. Corado Figueroa, who is on an official visit to Paraguay, is scheduled to meet with military commanders.

Asked to comment, the Salvadoran defense minister replied that the Armed Forces are of great service to the nation if they wholly fulfill their constitutional mission.

He added that each nation has its patrimony, which increases as time goes by since its the overriding objective is to achieve development for the welfare of its people.

Brig. Gen. Corado Figueroa pointed out that as a country's patrimony increases, there are more chances a political subject may try to tamper with it.

"I believe the best way to defend our patrimony is to have strictly professional Armed Forces that are acquainted with their job and do not meddle in partisan politics," he said.

He underlined that the Armed Forces are only part of the country's national government, which is the one that commands a nation's power and resources.

"Hence, to discharge their true responsibilities, the Armed Forces must be apolitical, obedient to the legally-constituted political power, non-deliberative, and really professional," he underscored.

Concluding, Brig. Gen. Corado Figueroa said the Salvadoran Armed Forces have embarked on a major modernization program with a view to better serving the country.

Peru

Fujimori Doubts Success of Miami Summit Goals

PA0412191594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1740 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ica, Peru, 4 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today expressed doubts about the Summit of the Americas, noting "it is doubtful it will produce a stronger America."

Fujimori, who is participating in the 32nd Annual Conference of Business Executives, drawing to an end in this city 325 km south of Lima, said that big and unrealistic expectations are being built around the Miami Summit.

He said: "I am skeptical because I do not believe that the meeting, which will be attended by 33 chiefs of state and government, will produce a stronger hemisphere."

He noted: In addition, it is doubtful that concepts produced by the Summit of the Americas—scheduled to take place from 9 to 11 December in Miami, Florida—will benefit the people of the continent.

Nevertheless, he said, the Peruvian Government will attend the hemispheric meeting with a definite position on democracy and with clear proposals on drug trafficking, which in Peru alone moves from $800 million to $1 billion.

Shining Path Attacks Mark Guzman's Birthday

PA0312202794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1846 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—In the past few hours, Shining Path rebels have perpetrated attacks against military and police installations to "commemorate" today the 60th birthday of their leader Abimael Guzman, who is serving a life sentence in a Peruvian jail.

Shining Path "commandos" at dawn today detonated a car bomb near the Advanced School of the Peruvian Air Force (FAP) [Escuela Superior de la Fuerza Aerea], in the La Molina District east of Lima. No victims were reported, although there was some minor damage.

A source from the police Bomb Disposal Squad (UDEX) informed NOTIMEX that the Shining Path members staged the attack with a stolen station wagon with the license plate number TI-3982.

The vehicle, loaded with approximately 50 kg of dynamite, exploded in the middle of University Avenue near the military installation, but the shockwave only broke a few windows.

This is the third attack against FAP installations this year. In February, the FAP General Command was attacked with a car bomb that killed two people.

In November, members of Shining Path used a vehicle loaded with explosives to attack the FAP officers club.

Presumed members of Shining Path last night hurled an explosive charge at the police garrison in Pachacamac, southeast of Lima, but caused no casualties because the policemen managed to take protective action.

UDEX personnel estimated that 300 grams of dynamite were used and the shockwave caused some damage to a few homes and a municipal facility near the police garrison.

Approximately 14 undocumented persons suspected of being members of the armed group were detained in a speedy operation and taken to DINCOTE [National Counterterrorism Directorate] holding points [separos].

Press sources, however, ponted out that a second charge opened a hole, which was covered by guards.

The security forces this week intensified antiterrorist operations in various parts of Lima, which has been in a state of emergency since 1987, because of new attacks today to "celebrate" the 60th birthday of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman.

Guzman, known as "President Gonzalo," was captured on 12 September 1992 and sentenced in summary proceedings by a military court to life imprisonment, for the crime of treason against the fatherland.

Augusto Vargas Alzamora, primate of the Peruvian Catholic Church, asked Guzman to "repent for his sins" because he was responsible for the 27,000-plus victims of the so-called Shining Path people's war since 1980.

Alleged members of Shining Path's leadership, meanwhile, last night requested on a local television station that President Alberto Fujimori's administration allow Guzman to publicly surrender before national and international news media.

Three hooded men identified as leaders of Shining Path's Metropolitan Committee said in a taped message broadcast by Channel 9 that "it is necessary for the people, the nation, and Peruvians to reach a peace agreement."

Guzman—considered the "fourth sword of the worldwide revolution," after Lenin, Marx, and Mao—in three letters written in his jail cell at a naval base in Callao, called for a peace agreement with the government to end the armed struggle.

A spokesman for President Fujimori told NOTIMEX that the agreement in question would be part of a strategy whereby Shining Path would "gain time" and recover its strength after the harsh blows it sustained over the past few years from government forces.

President Fujimori has offered a reward of $100,000 for the head of Shining Path leader Oscar Ramirez Durand, Guzman's successor and son of a retired Army general, who has decided to continue the "people's war."

Ramirez Durand is considered a "hero" by Shining Path members because he survived the killing of 250 rebels by the Armed Forces during an uprising at three prisons in Lima in 1986.

Fujimori has asserted on several occasions that he is confident that he will defeat terrorism before his term ends in July 1995 and that he will leave the Andean nation in peace.

Former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will seek the Peruvian presidency in 1995, said today that if he wins the elections there will be no "witch hunt" and that he will promote national reconciliation without negotiating with terrorists.

Uruguay

Lacalle Terms Trade 'Test of Love' for Miami Summit

PY0312021994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1836 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 2 Dec (EFE)—On 2 December Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle stated that the discussion of trade matters at the Miami Summit will be the "test of love" that will prove that the United States is really willing to cooperate with Latin America.

On 1 March Lacalle will hand over power to his successor from the Colorado Party, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who was elected in the 27 November general elections. Lacalle met with foreign correspondents in Uruguay today to explain his country's stance on the Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Miami from 9 to 11 December.

Unlike Brazil, whose outgoing and newly elected presidents will attend the summit, Uruguay will be represented only by Lacalle because—as the president explained—he and Sanguinetti are of one mind about the fact that being president-elect is not an institutional post, and that therefore his role in such meetings is awkward and little appreciated.

Despite this, Lacalle explained that Sanguinetti has appointed somebody who will represent him abroad at the Miami Summit as well as at the meeting to be held by the presidents of the four Common Market of the South (Mercosur) member countries in Ouro Preto (Brazil) some days after the Miami Summit. Lacalle did not want to reveal his identity, though.

The Uruguayan head of state believed that the big question concerning the summit is whether there is indeed a Western Hemisphere community of nations. If there is indeed such a thing, why have there been no hemispheric meetings since the one held in Punta del Este (Uruguay) 27 years ago?

Lacalle stated that Uruguay will go to Miami cherishing the hope that this venue will be a forum for multilateral negotiations rather than an occasion for personal contacts between presidents. He also hopes that it will not result in the establishment of an institutional structure as "we already have the OAS."

According to the Uruguayan president, commercial as well as political issues must be broached at the summit, because "they are linked symbiotically." Lacalle said that the issue of cooperation should also be on the agenda, and that in this regard he will defend his initiative to set up a Common Market of Knowledge, which in the president's view fits in perfectly with U.S. President Bill Clinton's "information superhighway."

Concerning the possibility that former U.S. President George Bush's Initiative for the Americas might be reactivated at the Miami Summit, Lacalle recalled that the objective of Bush's proposal was to establish a free trade zone extending from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego once regional initiatives have been set up and consolidated.

Asked about the possibilities of integration between Mercosur—made up of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay—and NAFTA—which comprises the United States, Canada, and Mexico—Lacalle said he was in favor of "gradualism" and the "convergence" of subregional processes, and against "historical anxiety."

The Uruguayan president explained that both blocs are similar in that they still have to become effective, something which is by no means easy. He made it clear that he is not skeptical but rather "somebody who, in politics, is guided by reality and not utopias, which have inflicted so much harm on the world, and especially on the Americas."

With regard to the prospects for the Ouro Preto meeting, the last presidential meeting before Mercosur comes into operation on 1 January, Lacalle noted that the presidents will define the structure of the Mercosur Secretariat, which will almost certainly be headquartered in Montevideo.

They will also define the proposal to create a kind of court to settle the controversies that may arise between member countries over compliance with the treaty.

Lacalle further stated that they have set forth the guidelines for the establishment of a trade commission, adding that he opposes the creation of a major institutional structure for Mercosur.

As for his future plans after he leaves office, Lacalle said that he will devote himself to promoting the initiative of the Common Market of Knowledge. He decline to answer the question of whether he is entertaining the idea of running for president a second time, in the 1999 elections.

The outgoing president stated that he neither aspires to nor is in a position to be the president of the National or Blanco Party, because his faction did not poll the greatest number of votes in the past elections. He added that he wishes to "continue with my civic action without being obliged to hold a certain post."

Miami Summit Issues Reviewed

PY0212180694 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 26 Nov 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Integration Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The President of the United States has convened all heads of state and government of the Americas—except Fidel Castro—to a summit in Miami on 9-10 December, to try to define the future stages of the hemisphere's economic integration.

The prospects for the outcome of this summit are not brilliant but in terms of the effort put into it and as a top level pow-wow, it will be useful.

The successful negotiation of NAFTA among the United States, Canada, and Mexico has prompted other countries to believe the idea of free trade and integration agreements would continue gathering momentum in the region, but it has not. It seemed Chile would be next to join NAFTA, but this idea has fallen into a deep slumber.

The defeat of the Democratic Party in the recent legislative elections in the United States is not totally irrelevant to this uncertainty. Washington has been asked to submit a coherent strategy so as to justify and move ahead with its objective. Nevertheless, it is difficult to draft such a strategy with a U.S. Congress that is in a quandary about how to undertake hemispheric integration. This is precisely the coherent strategy that is being requested now. It should be said, however, that the U.S.

Congress does not oppose the integration endeavor; the 1990 Initiative for the Americas—which had little success because, to some extent, the U.S. Congress was under the control of the Democrats—was proposed by past Republican President George Bush.

As the Chilean economy minister pointed out, trade must be included on the Miami summit agenda, otherwise "it will be pointless to gather presidents and ministers" just to discuss vague things.

The summit may yield two concrete results.

First, to survey trade and integration agreements in the hemisphere to establish what tariffs should be levied and what regulations should be applied. This would be a step in the right direction to ensure that current free trade agreements do not become stumbling blocks in the path of future hemispheric economic integration. Second, to define a timetable for a program that would at least freeze tariff and non-tariff barriers in the region.

If participants were to clarify and agree on these issues, the Miami Summit would find its raison d'etre, for it would clear the way to integration by coming to grips with the proliferation of bilateral free trade agreements which, although serving a short-term purpose, may damage a more all-encompassing integration scheme.

The OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] have jointly prepared a paper for the summit, which will constitute the basis for deliberations.

This paper raises objections against advancing toward integration through bilateral agreements because this path "involves limitations and is therefore not as viable as the multilateral method."

The paper recommends that the Miami Summit should fix a date—say, 2000—to conclude the formal multilateral negotiations on the establishment of a free trade zone in our hemisphere. The paper also recommends yearly ministerial meetings to keep negotiations under control and prevent problems from arising. The OAS Special Trade Commission could be the forum for these meetings. The paper also recommends increased support for investments linked to integration and trade, among them regional infrastructure projects.

The summit will be warranted if the goals described in preceding passages, the two specific elements emphasized, and the joint proposals are achieved. Nevertheless, the insecurity among those participants in the U.S. summit raises doubts over the outcome of the summit. It is appropriate to bear in mind a remark by the U.S. Foreign Trade deputy secretary [title as published] who emphasized that his country wants the summit to support free trade in our hemisphere and to take specific measures to advance toward this goal. Nevertheless, he admitted that this would not be a quick process: "Our goals cannot be achieved within five years, let alone one, but the impetus toward trade expansion must be enhanced and accelerated."

The Belem do Para Declaration, approved by the OAS during the 24th OAS General Assembly session, includes points that must be considered during the Miami summit.

The declaration points out that most OAS members have already implemented reform and structure adjustment programs, at a high social cost, to overcome the economic crisis of the past decade. This social cost may be reduced through additional and more significant efforts for joint cooperation and, especially, by improving the conditions for the OAS members to truly gain free access to the world economy through measures in the interrelated areas of trade, debt, and investment.

With this in mind, the declaration confirms that regional integration, based on deregulation and free trade, represents a process that favors the economic and social development of OAS members and, therefore, represents an essential element that contributes to the removal of extreme poverty in our hemisphere, the establishment of the conditions required for regional peace and stability, and the enhancement of democratic processes in the Americas.

Everything indicates and leans toward the pursuit of hemispheric economic integration, based on trade deregulation and coordination among countries in our region.

Given its level, the summit—convened by the U.S. President, with the approval of the American heads of government—must promote something specific and consistent in that direction.

The domestic political problems of the northern country should not represent a hurdle. As we have said before, even though the administration of a Democrat president is now promoting a summit to discuss integration, it was a Republican president who first launched the Initiative for the Americas in the same direction.

We look forward to the outcome of the 9-10 December summit. We trust that Uruguay will make a serious and carefully prepared contribution to the success of the summit, duly taking into account Uruguay's Common Market of the South experience.

Venezuela

Congress Approves 1995 Budget, Umbrella Law

PA0212193494 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a marathon session and following a recess that lasted until the last minute, the country finally has a budget for 1995. Almost one year after our last presidential elections, the Congress finally approved the budget and the Umbrella Law. Zayda Pereira has the story:

[Pereira] The 1995 Budget Law was approved at 2250 on 30 November, as had been expected since the national government submitted it to congress.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The Budget Law for fiscal year 1995 is declared approved under the same terms that the Senate approved it. [applause] [end recording]

[Pereira] The national budget was approved as expected. It amounts to 2.786 billion bolivares. Freddy Munoz, Leopoldo Sucre Figarella, and the Radical Cause Party cast a dissenting vote. The Umbrella Law, which is the maximum authorized limit of indebtedness, amounts to 462.6104 billion bolivares, 246 billion of which will be used for domestic indebtedness and $1.229 billion, at an exchange rate of 180 bolivares per dollar, for foreign indebtedness.

The debate regarding the reduction of more than half of the budget for Venezolana de Television delayed the discussions on the 1995 budget. The 1.2-billion-bolivar budget agreed upon for the 1995 budget of Venezolana de Television was reduced to 603.9 million bolivares, which means the imminent shutdown of Channel 8. This closure was called a political retaliation for the mistreatment that a group of legislators received when they went to the channel installations two days before the budget was discussed.

What is your opinion on the decision on Channel 8 and the reduction of approximately half of its budget?

[Begin Chamber of Deputies President Carmelo Lauria recording, identified by caption] I have no opinion, because the Finance Commission of the Senate made the decision in the end. The Chamber of Deputies accepted the Senate's modifications because most congressmen agreed with them. [end recording]

[Pereira] All parliamentarians and political forces, except the Radical Cause Party, finally approved this budget, which has been termed unreal and inflationary.

Congress Passes Law on Foreign Exchange Crimes

PA0512041494 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Clear penalties have been established for those who provide false information to obtain foreign currency. They could go to jail for up to five years and be fined up to five times the amount of the transaction.

These provisions were established in the Foreign Exchange System Law approved yesterday in a joint session of the National Congress. The law approved by Congress will be valid as long as foreign exchange controls are in effect, and they will be reactivated every time the executive branch imposes restrictions on currency exchange.

Prison terms ranging from one to four years, in addition to fines, were established for those who violate the foreign exchange regime. Those using foreign currency for purposes other than those for which the currency was obtained will face prison terms ranging from six to 30 months and also will be forced to pay fines. In addition, those engaging in foreign exchange crimes will be forced to return the foreign currency and indemnify the state for damages. The Foreign Exchange System Law has already been submitted to Miraflores Palace for ratification.

Alien Affairs Directorate To Be Reorganized

PA0412223394 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 1 Dec 94 Section 1 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers has agreed to completely reorganize the Directorate of Identification and Alien Affairs [Diex], which will, from now on, become a state security organization in an effort to combat corruption within Diex. The reorganization will, of course, include the appointment of new directors and the establishment of a completely different management system within Diex's various departments, because the old system lent itself to a number of irregularities and the trafficking of illegals.

Guyana

Summit Delegates Listed; Jagan To Propose Development Fund

FL0412202394 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 3, CANA—President Cheddi Jagan will lead Guyana's delegation to the Summit of the Americas scheduled for Miami, Florida, December 9-11. The delegation will include First Lady Mrs. Janet Jagan, Foreign Minister Clement Rohee and Finance Minister Asgar Ally. The Guyana Information Service (GIS) said Dr. Jagan will address one of the sessions of the summit while Foreign Minister Rohee will participate in a special session led by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Ally will be part of a session to be chaired by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Benson.

After the summit, Jagan will attend the 18th annual meeting of the Caribbean and Central American Action group, to be held in Miami December 12-15. He is also scheduled to address the hemispheric congress on agrobusiness in the Americas on December 14. A source at the office of the president told CANA President Jagan will be proposing the establishment of a Caribbean Development Fund similar to the European Development Fund.

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